No 5573.149
15-7-169

GIVEN BY
U. S. Supt of Doc'ts

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES J. DAVIS, Secretary
CHILDREN'S BUREAU
GRACE ABBOTT, Chief

WORK OF CHILDREN ON ILLINOIS FARMS

By

DOROTHY WILLIAMS

AND

MARY E. SKINNER

Bureau Publication No. 168

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1926

SINGLE COPIES

OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE OBTAINED FREE UPON APPLICATION TO THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU

ADDITIONAL COPIES

OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE PROCURED FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE WASHINGTON, D. C. AT

15 CENTS PER COPY

U. S. SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

FEB 23 1927

CONTENTS

	Page
Letter of transmittal	v
Introduction	1
Truck farming in the Chicago district	2
The farms selected for study	3
Method and scope of the study	7
The child workers	8
The children's work	12
Length of the working day	19
Duration of employment	23
Earnings of child workers	24
School attendance and school progress	27
Summary	30
General farming	32
The child workers	33
Conditions of work	35
Kinds of work	38
Farm work and school attendance	45
Summary	47

ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
MAP.—Location of the more concentrated areas of truck farms where children were found working in the Chicago district, and the type of crops grown	4

	Facing page
PLATE I.—Operations in truck farming	10
PLATE II.—Operations in truck farming	11
PLATE III.—Operations in general farming	42

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

U. S. Department of Labor,
Children's Bureau,
Washington, October 16, 1926.

Sir: There is transmitted herewith a report on "Work of Children on Illinois Farms." This report is the ninth and last of a series of studies of the labor of children on farms, with special reference to school attendance, which have been conducted by the industrial division of the Children's Bureau.

The investigation upon which the report was based was planned and carried out under the general supervision of Ellen Nathalie Matthews, director of the industrial division of the Children's Bureau. Dorothy M. Williams directed the field work and wrote the report for the Chicago truck-farming district and Mary A. Skinner for the general-farming counties.

Acknowledgment is made of the cooperation given the bureau by State and county officials, local school principals, and teachers.

Respectfully submitted.

Grace Abbott, *Chief.*

Hon. James J. Davis,
Secretary of Labor.

WORK OF CHILDREN ON ILLINOIS FARMS[1]

INTRODUCTION

This study of the work of children on Illinois farms was made in Cook County (in the vicinity of Chicago) in the summer of 1924 and in Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties, lying respectively in the northern, central, and southern parts of the State, in the spring and summer of 1923. Cook County embraces one of the most important truck-farming districts in the United States. (See p. 2.) Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties are representative of general farming conditions in Illinois and to some extent in all the Corn Belt States.

Illinois is predominantly a corn-growing State and ranks second in the United States in the production of corn. In 1919 the value of the corn crop was 48 per cent of the value of all crops in the State. Other products, however, have an important place. Cereals other than corn (of which wheat and oats are the most important) contributed 31 per cent of the total value of the crops in 1919; hay and forage contributed 14 per cent; vegetables, fruits, and nuts 5 per cent. Most of these crops are raised to some extent in every county in Illinois, but each has its area of largest production. By far the greatest acreage of corn lies in the central and east central counties where the soil is extremely fertile and where frosts do not prevent maturing of the grain. Oats also are grown in this section, especially in rotation with corn. In the south central counties hay and forage are the principal crops. Wheat is grown in the southwestern counties, and orchard fruits in the extreme southern part of the State. Some vegetables and small fruits are raised on every farm, but in the vicinity of Chicago and of St. Louis extensive truck farming is carried on.[2]

---

[1] This study is one of a series of studies of rural child labor made by the U. S. Children's Bureau. The following reports in the series have been published: No. 115, Child Labor and the Work of Mothers in the Beet Fields of Colorado and Michigan; No. 123, Child Labor on Maryland Truck Farms; No. 129, Child Labor in North Dakota; No. 130, Child Labor and the Work of Mothers on Norfolk Truck Farms; No. 132, Work of Children on Truck and Small-Fruit Farms in Southern New Jersey; No. 134, The Welfare of Children in Cotton-Growing Areas of Texas; No. 151, Child Labor in Fruit and Hop Growing Districts of the Northern Pacific Coast; No. 155, Child Labor in Representative Tobacco-Growing Areas.

[2] Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Vol. VI, Agriculture, p. 422; Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Vol. VI, Part, 1, Agriculture, p. 373. Washington, 1913 and 1922.

TRUCK FARMING IN THE CHICAGO DISTRICT

Truck farming in the vicinity of Chicago is overshadowed by the industries and varied activities of a great city, and its extent and importance are realized only when compared with truck farming in other areas. In 1919 Cook County stood third in the entire country in the value of its truck crops [1] and second in acreage harvested. It was surpassed by only Los Angeles and Imperial Counties in California in the value of these crops and by only Los Angeles County in acreage devoted to them. It had 19,275 acres of truck crops (31.8 per cent of the truck acreage in Illinois), whereas no other county in the State had as many as 4,000 acres and only two had more than 3,000 acres. It raised the largest proportion of the State's most valuable truck crops, having 4,599 acres of sweet corn (17.3 per cent of the acreage of the State); 3,566 acres of dry onions (79.3 per cent of the acreage of the State); 2,459 acres of tomatoes (39.1 per cent of the acreage of the State); and 2,330 acres of cabbage (61.6 per cent of the acreage of the State).[2]

All these vegetables were grown in the Chicago district in the summer of 1924. Other vegetables grown in the district (listed in order of their importance in the State) were cucumbers, asparagus, watermelons, lettuce, cantaloupes and muskmelons, beans (green), peas (green), pop corn, celery, carrots, rhubarb, peppers (green), radishes, beets, horse-radish, cauliflower, spinach, and squashes.[3]

The farming area around Chicago includes market-garden districts usual in the neighborhood of any great city with products disposed of by individual growers in the home markets. Chicago is also one of the great wholesale produce markets of the country; and although much of the produce of this territory is sold in the market for local consumption, some undoubtedly is shipped outside the local area, and a large proportion of the same crops is grown for manufacture, canning, or pickling. Among the crops destined for shipment are sugar beets and onion sets (small onion bulbs used for planting). These crops are not included among the vegetables raised for sale for which the census gives statistics, but as they are grown upon the same land by much the same methods and with the same labor they have been included in this study.

There are truck farms on all sides of Chicago a short distance inland from the lake. On the northwest, back of the line of suburbs fringing the lake, the truck farms begin almost immediately across the limits of the city. At some points along the western boundary

[1] The census statistics quoted in this report are for miscellaneous vegetables raised for sale, exclusive of potatoes, sweet potatoes, and yams. According to the Fourteenth Census of the United States (1920, Vol. V, Agriculture, p. 818) "the group designated 'miscellaneous vegetables' is made up chiefly of those vegetables which would be classified as truck crops in case a distinction were made between truck crops and farm crops or field crops. The grouping is not altogether satisfactory, since it includes sweet corn, for example, which is grown in many cases strictly as a field crop, and excludes early potatoes, which are frequently grown with all the special care and attention characteristic of a truck crop. The limitations of the census inquiry made it necessary, however, to classify the whole of a crop either with the field crops or with the vegetables." In the present report the term "truck crops" is used in substantially the same sense as in the census reports (but see lines 33–36, p. 2). In previous studies of children's work on truck farms made by the Children's Bureau (see footnote 1, p. 1) work on potatoes and small fruits was included; but in Cook County small fruits are not grown to any extent, sweet potatoes and yams are not grown at all, and no children found working in the areas selected for study had worked on white potatoes.

[2] Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Agriculture, Bulletin: Farm Vegetables, pp. 17–20, 64; Vol. VI, Part 1, Agriculture, pp. 396–405.

[3] Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Agriculture, Bulletin: Farm Vegetables, p. 27.

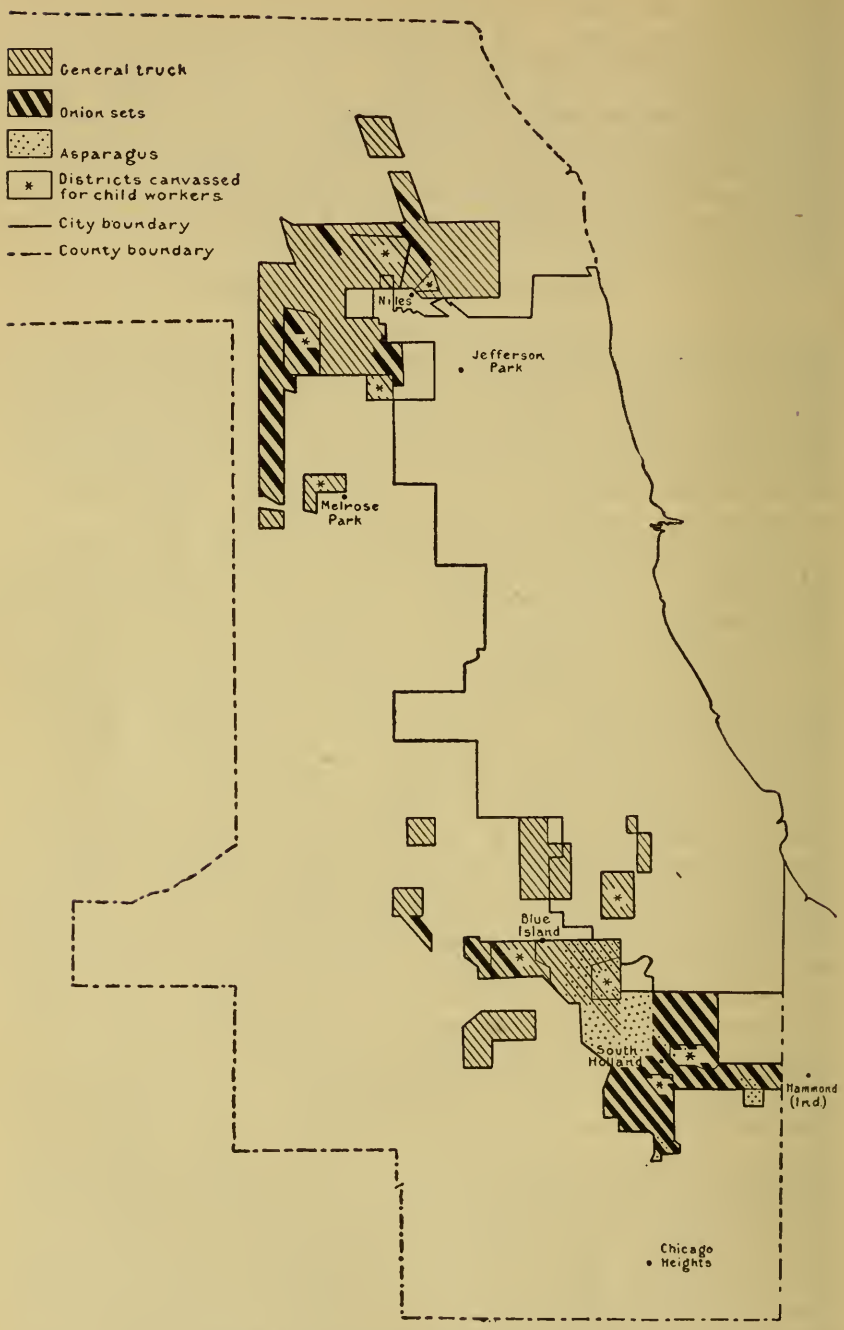
of Chicago the farms begin almost on the line; at others they are crowded farther west or replaced altogether by suburbs and by manufacturing plants. On the south the trucking area closely adjoins the manufacturing and railroad district immediately outside the city limits and even within them. This fringe, fairly outlining the city at the northwest and southwest corners, gives way after 4 or 5 miles to farms devoted to field crops, although occasional trucking areas extend to the very edge of Cook County and beyond. Farms in the more concentrated area and within 5 miles of the city limits were selected for study. The map on page 4 shows the location of the more concentrated area of truck farms and the type of crops grown.

THE FARMS SELECTED FOR STUDY

As it was practicable to include in the study only a part of the areas used for truck farming around Chicago certain districts were selected (after interviews with persons conversant with the situation from various angles—school-teachers, county public-health nurses and probation officers in rural districts, and directors of the local association of truck farmers) as fair samples of the various conditions under which children worked on Cook County farms. The asterisks on of the map on page 4 indicate the districts canvassed.

Within the city limits one district was canvassed. It was bounded by One hundred and third and One hundred and fifteenth Streets, and Stewart and Racine Avenues, most of the farms lying along South Halsted and Wallace Streets, comprising an area 1 mile wide and 1½ miles long. South of the city three districts were studied. One consisted of 1 square mile lying east of Blue Island, along Ashland Avenue and Halsted Street, Vermont Avenue and One hundred and thirty-fifth Street. A second district, west of Blue Island, was an irregular oblong area extending about 2 miles east and west and 1 mile north and south, bounded by the Sanitary Canal on the south, Forty-fourth (Kostner) Avenue on the west, and San Francisco Avenue on the east to its junction with railroad tracks which form the north boundary, the farms lying along One hundred and thirty-first and One hundred and twenty-seventh Streets. The third district on the south was near South Holland, where two sections were included in the study; one was an irregular oblong extending from One hundred and fifty-first Street to Little Calumet River, from State Street to Greenwood Road; and the other was triangular in shape, bounded by One hundred and fifty-ninth Street on the north, State Street on the east, and the Grand Trunk Railroad on the southwest. North of the city four districts were selected. The first included a triangle along Milwaukee Road, Waukegan Road, and Dempster Street, and a small triangle formed by Touhy Avenue, Railroad Avenue, and Hart's Road. The second section lay along Irving Park Road, Phillips Road, Lawrence Avenue, and Harlem Road. The third lay along Twenty-fifth Avenue to North Avenue, and along North Avenue to the River Road, extending 1 mile north and south and 1½ miles east and west. The fourth consisted of a group of farms on the River Road, Higgins Road, and Mannheim Road, near Schiller Park. Ten of the farms visited lay outside any of the districts selected, two in the city, three on the south, and five on the north.

Several of the truck-farming districts are rapidly changing in character. Subdivisions being promoted in Roseland will take farming



Location of the more concentrated areas of truck farms where children were found working in the Chicago district, and the type of crops grown

land in the South Halsted Street district within the city; and subdivisions near Niles Center are taking farming land west of Evanston toward the Milwaukee Road, including many of the farms visited. The territory farther to the west and farther south included in the study is not in such immediate demand for urban development.

The general aspect of the truck farms is poor. Those south of the city are especially unattractive. The fields are far from neat, the houses and farm buildings old, inconvenient, and not well kept up. On the north the fields are better kept; but the houses and buildings are in a poor state of repair, and most of them show no attempt at comfort or stability. In the district around Schiller Park, northwest of Chicago, however, both the buildings and the fields of a number of farms are neat and well kept, and the buildings are larger and more attractive than in the other districts.

The average size of the farms visited was 27.9 acres, and the average acreage in truck crops was 19.13. This is more than twice the average acreage in vegetables of the 2,412 farms raising vegetables for sale in Cook County in 1919.[4] About one-half of the farms were used entirely for truck crops. All but 2 of 25 farms within the city limits of Chicago which were visited and which reported on the type of crop were entirely truck farms, whereas only a few more than one-third of those outside Chicago were used entirely for truck.

The city farms are part of an old settlement of Hollanders. Most of the farmers there to-day are sons of immigrants who came to the district as many as 70 years ago, though there were Dutch settlers in the district before that time. The farmers recall farms of 160 acres largely devoted to the raising of hay which have been reduced gradually to their present size of 5, 10, and 20 acres and are devoted to the production of vegetable crops only. This district specializes in early vegetables as the district to the north of the city does in late crops. Many of the boys working on these farms live in the neighborhood and work regularly and for continuous periods on one farm, so that the farmers take a friendly interest in their welfare while at work. On one farm it was stated that boys younger than 10 years were not employed unless they came with older brothers. Girls were not often in the field, and women did not do field work.

In the sections on either side of Blue Island Dutch and German farmers apparently predominate; the labor supply, however, is principally from Italian and Polish families. The district is intermediate between the city district and the northern districts in the distance of the work from the source of the labor supply, in the length of continuous work on one farm, and in the interest and supervision given the child workers. A number of the farmers obtain their child workers from near-by villages or towns and others obtain them from adjacent parts of Chicago. Children working on farms west of Blue Island lived in the villages Alsip and Wireton and in Blue Island. Children interviewed on farms of Blue Island came from Blue Island and from Pullman or West Pullman, parts of the city contiguous to the farming district. None of these children spent money for transportation; automobiles called at certain gathering places for those who lived farther away than walking distance, as most of them did, and conveyed them to the farms. The closeness of the farms to the homes and schools of the children makes work before and after school

[4] Ibid., p. 18.

possible during the school term also. The farms here specialize in a few crops more than do the farms in the city or the districts to the north. Three crops is a common number, the main crop being either asparagus or onions. This and South Holland are the only districts studied in which sugar beets are grown. The larger acreage given over to one crop makes the work of weeding or harvesting more continuous than on the northern farms; employers and children come to know each other and a personal relationship is established. Some farmers are concerned that the children who work for them shall have varied tasks; one or two provide treats for them. Yet nowhere in the districts studied was the relation between the children and their employers more impersonal than on some of the large onion farms in this section.

The farms near South Holland, like those around Blue Island, are generally devoted to three crops, such as asparagus, sugar beets, and onion sets, with a small acreage of other vegetables. Work seems to be less continuous than on the Blue Island farms. No personal relation between employer and workers is apparent unless they are relatives. None of the workers are from Chicago. They come from considerable distances, principally from Chicago Heights and Hammond, Ind. The children from Hammond are brought from gathering places—near a certain school, for instance—and have no car fare to pay. Italian women and children come from Chicago Heights by train and are met at the South Holland railroad station by any farmers in need of workers that day. They go on foot to the near-by farms or are conveyed by automobile to the farms farther away. The farmers themselves are Dutch or American.

Most of the farms included in the study on the north side of the city were in a triangular area north of Niles. Here many kinds of vegetables are grown, a few acres devoted to each of a half-dozen or a dozen on each farm. Each day's work finds a new crew of workers. For a few days early in the summer the farmer needs extra help in getting the green onions ready for market, and he goes to the open space at the end of the street-car lines in Jefferson Park, where, at an early hour in the morning, he picks up a few boys, or a little later in the morning he hires boys who have not been successful in obtaining work at Jefferson Park and who come by his farm asking for work. If at the end of the day's work these boys have been satisfactory and part of the crop remains unharvested, the farmer will tell them to come back the next morning. Thus the boys may have a few days or a week of work on this one farm. Later, when peas are ready to be picked, and later still, when carrots or beets are to be pulled and bunched, the farmer will obtain the needed help in the same manner. Under this method of hiring and this sporadic need of help there is no continuous employment under one employer, and the farmer is not likely to develop an interest in the workers. In addition to the children from the city the farmers' sons and daughters also work on the farms. The farm families are American, German, and Dutch. The outside workers are largely Polish and Slavic. Conditions in the smaller district not far east of this area are similar.

To the northwest the three other districts visited on the north side of the city contain farms with varied vegetable crops. Near the town of Melrose Park are Italian farmers to whose farms Italian child workers come from the town. North of Schiller Park are

farmers of various nationalities, Polish and German among them, whose child workers are from the city, obtained from Jefferson Park, or are the children of Italian railroad laborers in the settlement of Schiller Park, who are sometimes brought out by the farmer in his car and sometimes find their own way out. The farms in this locality are rather more prosperous in appearance and have more modern houses and barns than is the rule in other districts. In the Norwood Park district just outside the city limits the American, Scandinavian, and other farmers employ children when they need extra help, sometimes hiring them at Jefferson Park but more frequently finding them among the families living near the edge of the city.

METHOD AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Collection of information for the study was begun late in June, 1924, and continued into September, thus extending over the whole of the busy season; that is, almost the entire weeding season, the peak of the asparagus cutting in late June and early July, the onion "twisting" or harvesting in August, and the harvesting of the other and less important vegetables throughout the summer and early fall.

The farmer's family (and on some farms an additional boy who is hired for long periods and becomes practically a member of the family) can take care of the work on truck crops during most of the year. Further help is seldom needed until late in the spring. Then boys who live near the farms are hired on Saturdays to prepare the soil and to plant, and especially to cut asparagus outside of school hours on any days. The peak of the work corresponds rather exactly with school vacations; the season for children's work begins with the closing of school in June and continues until its opening in September.

Each farm in the selected districts was visited, and all children under 16 years of age found working on truck farms on the day of the visit were interviewed if they had worked on truck farms not less than four hours on at least 12 days within the year preceding the interview. Children who had worked before or after school were included even though they had worked less than four hours a day. If migratory workers (persons settling in the district for a season's work) had worked as much as six days they were also included in the record. Children living on the farms on which they had worked were not included unless they had lived in a rural district the whole year preceding the interview, as otherwise they did not seem representative of that group of workers.

Visits were made to a total of 119 farms on which children were working, 26 farms within the city limits, 39 south of the city, and 54 in the northern section of the county. The number of children interviewed on the farms varied in the different districts, with an average of 2.9 on farms in the north, 3.4 on farms in the city, and 6.6 on farms in the south. One hundred and fifty-five children were included from the northern district, 257 from the southern, and 89 from the city farms. More child workers are employed on those farms where there are many acres of one crop which must have care at approximately the same time than on farms with diversified crops. Specialization occurs in the district at the south on the great asparagus and onion farms, where 20 or more children are frequently seen in the field at one time. In the northern area many kinds of vege-

tables are grown, as many as 20 or 25 on one farm. The farms in the city are only somewhat less diversified than those on the north; 10 or more crops were raised on 17 of the 37 northern farms reporting, and on only 5 of the 22 city farms. Because of the nature of the work in connection with these diversified crops many of the children working on one farm on a busy day had not worked on farms long enough to be included in the study.

In addition to the detailed information obtained from each child regarding the nature and extent of his work, some information of a more general kind was obtained from the farmers, and attendance records for each child during the school year 1923–24 were obtained from the various schools attended.

THE CHILD WORKERS

More than three-fourths (77.8 per cent) of the 501 children found working on the farms were day laborers. More than one-half of these 390 day laborers, or 201 children, came from Chicago. The other half were divided between town and country, 111, or 28.5 per cent of them, living in other cities and towns of 2,500 or more population, and 78, or 20 per cent, living on farms or in villages of less than 2,500 inhabitants. (Tables 1 and 2.) There were 13 child workers who stayed on the farm during the week but went home for Sunday, 12 had come to the farm for the season and for purposes of the study were considered migratory workers, and 86 were residing on the farms where they worked. (Table 1.) The migratory and weekly workers and children of farmers thus constituted a small group—only one-fifth of the total. The only Children's Bureau studies of rural child laborers showing similar proportions of daily workers are those of the work of children on truck farms near Norfolk, Va., where 71.5 per cent of the child workers came out to work by the day, and of the work of children on tobacco farms in the vicinity of Hartford, Conn., where 66.7 per cent of the child workers came out daily from the city.[5] In the Chicago district studied a few of the children were accompanied by their mothers, but 365 of the 390 day workers were working independently.

TABLE 1.—*Children of specified ages working on truck crops, by kind of worker; Cook County*

Kind of worker	Children of specified ages working on truck crops								
	Total		Under 10 years	10 years, under 12		12 years, under 14		14 years, under 16	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number[a]	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	501	100.0	29	95	100.0	214	100.0	163	100.0
City day laborer	201	40.1	6	33	34.7	96	44.9	66	40.5
Town day laborer	111	22.2	6	24	25.3	45	21.0	36	22.1
Rural day laborer	78	15.6	5	17	17.9	30	14.0	26	16.0
Resident worker	86	17.2	10	19	20.0	31	14.5	26	16.0
Weekly worker	13	2.6	-------	-------	----------	8	3.7	5	3.1
Migratory worker	12	2.4	2	2	2.1	4	1.9	4	2.5

[a] Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 50.

[5] See Child Labor and the Work of Mothers on Norfolk Truck Farms, p. 3 (U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 130, Washington, 1924), and Child Labor in Representative Tobacco-Growing Areas, p. 30 (U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 155, Washington, 1926).

TABLE 2.—*Place of residence of children working on truck crops in specified localities; Cook County*

Place of residence	Children under 16 years of age working on truck crops in specified localities			
	Total	City farms	North Side farms	South Side farms
Total	501	89	155	257
Chicago	222	89	64	69
Other places of 2,500 inhabitants or more	118		21	97
Rural	161		70	91

The parents of most of the children were industrial workers. Only 56 fathers or other breadwinners were engaged in farming, 25 of them being farm owners, 23 tenants, and 8 laborers. The largest occupational group consisted of 217 individuals (the breadwinners for 261 children) who were engaged in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits, and 106 of these (the breadwinners for 126 children) were factory workers. Smaller groups were engaged in transportation, in trade, and in domestic and personal service. The mothers of 129 children were gainfully employed exclusive of those keeping boarders or lodgers—the mothers of 76 children doing farm work and those of 53 children doing other types of work.

The fathers of all but 4 children were white, and very nearly four-fifths of the children (389 of the 495 reporting nationality of father) came from immigrant families. The birthplaces of the fathers of the children were as follows: 129, Poland; 68, Italy; 55, the Netherlands; and 48, Germany. Smaller groups reported that their fathers had been born in Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, or Scandinavian countries. The families had been residents of the United States for long periods. All but 4 of the 342 reporting length of residence stated that their fathers had been in this country 10 years or more. Nine-tenths of the children came from homes where the father spoke English, and more than four-fifths had literate fathers.

There were 404 boys and 97 girls among these child workers. More children found working in the fields were 12 years of age and under 14 than in any other age group, but those under 12 years of age constituted one-fourth (24.8 per cent) of the whole group, as Table 1 shows. The age distribution was practically the same among boys and girls.

The season covered by the period of the study was the second on truck farms for 175 children (35.5 per cent of the 493 who reported the number of years they had done such work). This two-year group was the largest among all day laborers. Among the resident workers, however, 27 (32.1 per cent of the children reporting on this item) had worked five years or more; 46 (54.8 per cent) had worked four years or more; and only 25 had worked two years or less. The opposite tendency appeared in the case of day laborers from the city, as more than one-half (51.3 per cent) of the 199 reporting had worked only one or two years, and only about one-fourth (26.6 per cent) had worked four years or more.

Children begin to do the easier work on truck farms at an early age. Only 5 of the 28 under 10 years of age who reported the number

of years they had worked on truck farms were working for their first season. Ten of the children of 10 and 11 years of age had worked five years or more, 6 had worked four years, and 19 had worked three years. There were 31 children of 12 and 13 years of age who had worked five years or more and 40 who had worked four years. One 11-year-old boy who was interviewed was then working for his sixth year as a day worker, and living in a village near the farm. It was his custom to work all summer except two weeks in July, which he took for a vacation; and also to work Saturdays during the school year. Having begun work at 6 years of age he was an experienced hand, working regularly 10 hours a day. He helped to plant, transplant, and cultivate, by leading the horse which a man drove. He hoed and weeded, picked dill, and pulled horse-radish.

Farm work near Chicago has few of the advantages popularly attributed to farm work for children. It is not a child's share in the common labor of his family, adapted to his years and chosen with a view to his best development. The Chicago child doing farm work is an entity in the world of labor, an individual as much cut off from the care that is his right as the child in a store or shop or the child in a factory. He leaves his family just as completely, goes a longer distance, and often remains away for longer hours. Frequently his whereabouts is known much less accurately. This isolation, this early entrance into the world on the child's own responsibility constitutes the problem of farm labor of children near Chicago.

Children find their jobs by chance and by their own efforts, their success depending upon the demand for and supply of labor. The families of only a few of the children other than the 98 who were working at home or as migratory laborers knew anything of the conditions under which their children worked. A few farmers within the city limits knew their neighbors and took all their labor supply from their own neighborhood, where the parents had personal knowledge of the employers of their children, and could, if they cared to, know something of the conditions under which their sons and daughters worked. Conditions of work on these farms were in general very superior to those on farms outside the city. On these farms inside the city, and to a slighter degree on those near towns of considerable size, principally a few farms near Blue Island, considerable care is taken to make the work fit the child, not only by apportioning it according to ages—as any farmer does to some extent in order to obtain the biggest returns from his outlay—but also by varying it so that the same kind of work lasts only a few hours. This avoids the fatigue produced by repetition of one operation all day long, as well as the physical weariness from repetition of one set of muscular movements. Variation was also made in the kinds of work in order to keep up the child's interest.

Change of work is not the only means which these farmers use to lighten the day of their young employees. Like the farmers on outlying farms they generally give a morning and an afternoon lunch period of 15 minutes at 10 and at 3 o'clock. At least one farmer instituted group recreation at the noon period by games such as quoits with horseshoes. On a number of these farms the annual outing of the boys has become an institution. After the ending of the busiest season a party with ice cream is provided, or an all-day auto-

PLATE I.—OPERATIONS IN TRUCK FARMING: 1. WEEDING ONIONS. 2. TWISTING DRY ONIONS. 3. PULLING AND HAULING CARROTS

PLATE II.—OPERATIONS IN TRUCK FARMING: 1. TWISTING ONION SETS. 2. PLACING ½-BUSHEL BASKET FULL OF ONION SETS ON HEAD OF GIRL ABOUT TO CARRY IT TO SIFTER. 3. CUTTING ASPARAGUS

mobile ride given. Of course this is possible only where the work in one place is of considerable duration. Where continuous employment by the same farmer is the rule the personal oversight and interest of the employer obviate the worst features of the child's employment away from his family. But continuity is the exception, and it is found only in the districts cited.

Where the children's homes and places of employment are not so widely separated their day is shorter because of the shorter distance to travel. Work beginning at 7 in the morning and ending at 6 at night, although not desirable, is much less objectionable when the child can reach work or home in 10 minutes than when (as in the larger number of cases) he must spend an additional hour or two, both night and morning, on the journey. In this urban district, however, a striking contrast may be observed between the working hours of men—who are strong enough to enforce their demands for a shorter working day—and the working day of the children, who can not protect themselves from overlong hours and to whom no legal protection is extended—for here the children working in the fields can hear the factory whistles blow and see the operatives leaving the factories for home at half-past four in the afternoon, when the children themselves have an hour and a half still to work.

The proximity of these farms to the homes and schools of the child laborers enables the children to work before and after school hours—a practice which causes much concern to the teachers of schools when it is at all common. The principal of a school with 750 pupils estimated that 50 of these pupils work on farms in this way. In spite of the small proportion of children affected the work had impressed her as a great evil, because the children were so tired when they came to school after several hours' work on farms.

An undesirable feature of the children's work is the casual way in which employment is obtained. Usually the farmers in need of help go to certain corners near the outskirts of Chicago, inside or outside the city limits, where a crowd of men, women, and children who wish a day's work habitually assembles. On the South Side gatherings are small and are held at various places, as the corner of Halsted and One hundred and twenty-third Streets, the corner of Michigan Avenue and One hundred and twenty-third Street, and at Burr Oak near Blue Island, at Hammond, Ind., and at the railroad station where the train comes to South Holland from Chicago Heights. At these places the number of farms to be served is small. The farms and the character of work on each, and even the general rate of pay, thus become known to the work seekers. The boys know the men for whom they like to work, and some quite regularly get on the truck of the same farmer each morning. North of the city, however, the number of such centers is smaller, and only one was of much importance to the farmers interviewed. Almost all the irregular help comes from one center, and the process of obtaining helpers is customarily spoken of as "bidding at Jefferson Park." To this place at the end of a street-car line people come by the hundreds in the early hours of the morning before it is light and stand around while the farmers bargain with them for their day's labor. The amount of pay offered is determined directly by competition; that is, by the demand the farmers make for workers on each morning and by the

number of workers on hand. The applicants circulate slowly from group to group, seeking the most favorable terms, or the farmers seek them out. Wages offered by one farmer are quoted to another, spokesmen for groups of adults haggle with the farmers, and youngsters shout their own superior qualities as workers. As each farmer selects the number of workers he requires he drives off with them in his automobile or truck. The men and women are chosen first, and if there are enough of them the children are not hired.

In the district north of the city the casual method of finding work is at its worst, and the distance from the child's home to his work is the greatest. Their transportation is complicated, as almost all the children are from Chicago, not only from the northern districts but also from the West Side farther to the south. All come by street car, usually making several transfers, thus expending 14 cents a day whether they obtain work or not. Moreover, many must start as early as 3 a. m., while it may still be dark. This makes the child's working day much longer than the actual number of hours of his labor. If he is fortunate enough to obtain work with a farmer at Jefferson Park he may start work at 7 o'clock, but he may have to seek employment by walking along the road until he finds a farmer who will hire him. In either case he is away from his home and usually under no supervision in the early or the late hours of the day—for he can not arrive home until 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening.

THE CHILDREN'S WORK

Principal crops.

More children had worked on onions than on any other crop during the year preceding the interview. Only 58 of the whole group of 501 had done no work on onions. (Table 3.) The work on this crop most frequently reported included weeding all kinds of onions, peeling and bunching green onions, pulling dry onions, and "twisting" or harvesting onion sets. Variations of the harvesting process or additions to it were pulling, washing, and carrying green onions, bunching, clipping, picking up, and packing dry onions, and picking up, sifting, and bagging onion sets. A few children had planted onion sets and dry onions.

Methods of planting onions vary. Winter onions and sets are grown from the seed, late summer onions from seedlings grown in hotbeds, and early summer onions from sets grown the year before. In planting early or late summer onions the child's part is dropping the plant on the ground and setting the onion in the ground after the rows have been made.

Onions are usually weeded by hand (Pl. I, fig. 1, facing p. 10), but on some farms a small triangular hoe with a short handle is used. This and the wheel hoe, however, are used by women more than by children. The harvesting of any kind of onions consists of pulling the onions from the ground and then peeling, clipping, or twisting them, these two operations being considered one process and taking the name of the second operation. (Pl. II, fig. 1, facing p. 11.) Most of the children working on green onions are concerned with the peeling or the bunching, which is done in July. Only boys reported peeling, which is done in a shed to which the onions are brought from the field. The children sit on the floor with the onions on the floor beside them and peel off the outer skin. Then they put a rubber band

around six onions and make six such bunches into one large bunch, for which 1 cent usually is paid. Next the onions are washed (more often by the farmer than by the child), and then they are ready to take to market. In harvesting dry onions, which is done at intervals all summer, beginning the latter part of July with the early summer onions (the late summer onions being ready to harvest early in August and the winter onions later), the children pull them from the ground, sometimes peel off the outer layer or skin, then clip off the tops with shears or twist them off if they are fairly dry. (Pl. I, fig. 2, facing p. 10.) All these operations in the harvesting of dry onions constitute what is known as pulling. Some of them involve discomfort for the workers. Several twists are necessary if the tops are stout; and if the tops are removed by clipping with shears the children sometimes cut their hands. Some of the pulling is done in the warmest part of the summer when the sun is extremely hot in the fields. After the winter onions are pulled they are put in baskets or bags. One other operation on the onion crop that a few children reported is "topping," which consists of pinching off the bulblet formed on the top of the seed stock of onions grown to produce seed.

TABLE 3.—*Operations performed on the onion crop by boys and girls of specified ages working on truck crops; Cook County*

Operations performed on onion crop, and sex of the children	Children of specified ages working on truck crops [1]				
	Total	Under 10 years	10 years, under 12	12 years, under 14	14 years, under 16
Total	501	29	95	214	163
Working on onions	443	24	89	189	141
Weeding	357	18	72	153	114
Twisting	248	13	53	107	75
Pulling	76	1	13	31	31
Bunching	66		10	35	21
Picking up	64	2	11	26	25
Planting	48		13	19	16
Peeling	34		4	17	13
Not working on onions	58	5	6	25	22
Boys	404	23	76	173	132
Working on onions	357	18	71	151	117
Weeding	292	13	58	126	95
Twisting	201	11	42	84	64
Pulling	58	1	9	25	23
Bunching	62		8	33	21
Picking up	50	2	9	18	21
Planting	47		12	19	16
Peeling	34		4	17	13
Not working on onions	47	5	5	22	15
Girls	97	6	19	41	31
Working on onions	86	6	18	38	24
Weeding	65	5	14	27	19
Twisting	47	2	11	23	11
Pulling	18		4	6	8
Bunching	4		2	2	
Picking up	14		2	8	4
Planting	1		1		
Not working on onions	11		1	3	7

[1] The items do not add to the totals because some children performed more than one operation.

The largest number of children engaged in any harvesting process had twisted or had picked up onions. These operations are considered the same, although picking up is simpler work and ordinarily is paid for at a lower rate. Most of this work is done in August, though when the crop is late (as in the year covered in this study) it lasts into September, and when the crop is early it may begin in the latter part of July. In twisting onion sets or onions to be used for pickles the women or children sit on the ground, pull up a handful of onions, loosen the dirt, if necessary, by dragging them over the ground several times, twist the green tops off, and put the onions into half-bushel baskets. Because this work is usually paid for by the piece the children are tempted to work too fast, and wrists are frequently strained as a consequence. Two girls who had filled 50 and 48 baskets the first day of the season were able to fill less than 25 and only 28 baskets, respectively, in the same length of time (6 hours) the second day because of swollen and painful wrists. When the onions lie rather deep in the soil the farmer first loosens them by means of a horse-drawn or hand cultivator. Sometimes the bulbs lie nearly on top of the ground, and the tops have become dry and withered, so that the onions need only to be lifted in handfuls and dropped into the baskets, an operation known as picking or scooping. On many farms each worker carries his own basket (Pl. II, fig. 2, facing p. 11) and even lifts it and empties the contents upon the screen, where the remaining dirt on the onions is loosened and sifted away. From the screen the onions are put into flat wooden holders where they are kept, first in the field and later in storage, until they are put through the mill for grading. Boys sometimes carry these wide flat trays from the sifter to piles at the end of the field.

The next largest group of children working on any one process of any one crop other than onions had cut asparagus. This work begins May 1 or 15 and ends between July 4 and 15. The child stoops to thrust his knife slightly below the surface of the ground and cut and gather the stalk, then straightens up and walks to the next stalk which is ready for cutting. (Pl. II, fig. 3, facing p. 11.) The stalks are taken to sheds for bunching, washing, and packing. Bunching is done in several ways. The simplest is to place a number of stalks in a wooden form of the length desired for the stalks with the heads at the closed end and with a sharp knife to cut off the part of the stalks extending beyond the form. Rubber bands are then slipped around each end of the bunch, or twine is tied around it. On farms where the work is highly organized the stalks are taken up in bunches and shoved into a metal groove, where a cutter worked by a foot treadle descends on the stalks. The bunch is then passed to the next worker, who puts the bunch, tip ends first, into a small metal cylinder around which rubber bands have been placed and from which each band is readily pulled off over each end of the bunch. These bunches are packed in wooden boxes, which are placed in a long shallow metal tub filled with water to keep them cool until sent to market in the evening.

A large number of children had worked during the year on beets, on carrots, and on beans, their work being principally weeding and harvesting. (Pl. I, fig. 3, facing p. 10.)

Kinds of work.

The majority of the children in the Chicago truck-farming district work on several crops during the course of the year and do a considerable variety of work. Information as to the number of kinds of work that each child did the day before he was interviewed was obtained for all except 4 of the 501 children. Most of them (338) had done only one kind; but 136 children had done two kinds of work, and 23 had worked at three or more farming operations during the day. Almost all the younger children had done only one kind of work on the day before the interview, only 6 of the 29 children under 10 years of age reporting more than one.

For the year previous to the interview the number of crops worked on and the different kinds of work that had been done were ascertained as accurately as possible; but the report is undoubtedly an understatement, for the children could not remember precisely all their work except when they had done only one or two kinds. From 1 to 3 farming operations were reported by 221 children (44.2 per cent), 4 to 6 operations by 183 children (36.6 per cent), 7 to 9 operations by 72 children, and 10 or more by 24 children. The boys working on their fathers' farms and on those farms where a large variety of crops are raised, reported the largest number of different crops and farming operations; for instance, one 12-year-old boy reported 12 processes on 14 crops, and his 15-year-old brother reported 14 processes on 11 crops. All the children who had worked five months or more of the year had worked on at least four operations.

The number of crops worked on during the year varied from 1 to 15, but about three-tenths of the children reported only 1 crop. One-half (48) of the girls had worked on only 1 crop. Most of the children (400 of the 486 reporting) had worked on only 1 crop on the day before the interview.

Nearly all the children working on truck farms help to cultivate and harvest. (Table 4.) Nearly an equal number of children reported each, 426 having cultivated during the year previous to the inquiry and 490 having harvested.

Preparation of soil and planting.—Very few children helped in preparation of the soil for crops (Table 4), only 15 boys and no girls reporting this work. Their part is raking when handwork is a good substitute for harrowing, especially between successive crops. They also help to clear the ground by pulling out the old plants before the raking is done.

The planting of 14 crops was reported by 71 children, and the transplanting of 11 crops by 74 children. Only 6 girls (3 of whom were under 12 years of age) reported planting, and 16 girls reported transplanting. Some of the planting is done by sowing seed by hand in hotbeds, some by sowing in the field by hand or by machine—in which case the boy's part may be leading the horse. When transplanting by hand the child drops the plant at regular intervals for the farmer to put in the ground. When transplanting by machine he sits on the floor of the machine and lays the plants out so that the machine drops them at the proper intervals, while a man drives the horse and another boy may lead it. Most planting and transplanting is done in April, but of some vegetables which produce several crops in one year (like cabbages and beans) there are successive plantings until the middle of the summer.

TABLE 4.—*Farm operations performed by boys and girls of specified ages working on truck crops; Cook County*

Farm operations performed, and sex of the children	Children of specified ages working on truck crops [1]				
	Total	Under 10 years	10 years, under 12	12 years, under 14	14 years, under 16
Total	501	29	95	214	163
Preparing soil	15	1	4	4	6
Planting	71	2	15	28	26
Transplanting	74	5	10	33	26
Cultivating	426	22	80	184	140
Weeding	412	22	79	177	134
Hoeing	160	6	19	65	70
Thinning	76	1	9	39	27
Machine cultivating	50	-	5	22	23
Operating wheeled hoe	28	-	1	12	15
Harvesting	490	27	91	210	162
Picking	169	10	27	75	57
Cutting	170	8	22	73	67
Pulling	159	8	28	66	57
Bunching	230	9	31	108	82
Twisting	248	13	53	107	75
Picking up	66	2	11	27	26
Boxing, sacking, and packing	54	5	7	23	19
Carrying or loading	59	2	7	23	27
Trimming or cleaning	42	1	4	20	17
Peeling	34	-	4	17	13
Boys	404	23	76	173	132
Preparing soil	15	1	4	4	6
Planting	65	2	12	27	24
Transplanting	58	3	7	27	21
Cultivating	354	17	65	155	117
Weeding	342	17	64	149	112
Hoeing	142	5	15	59	63
Thinning	70	-	8	37	25
Machine cultivating	48	-	4	21	23
Operating wheeled hoe	25	-	1	11	13
Harvesting	396	22	72	170	132
Picking	139	7	19	63	50
Cutting	145	6	20	65	54
Pulling	130	7	21	57	45
Bunching	199	7	24	98	70
Twisting	201	11	42	84	64
Picking up	52	2	9	19	22
Boxing, sacking, and packing	41	3	4	18	16
Carrying or loading	56	2	6	23	25
Trimming or cleaning	40	1	4	18	17
Peeling	34	-	4	17	13
Girls	97	6	19	41	31
Planting	6	-	3	1	2
Transplanting	16	2	3	6	5
Cultivating	72	5	15	29	23
Weeding	70	5	15	28	22
Hoeing	18	1	4	6	7
Thinning	6	1	1	2	2
Machine cultivating	2	-	1	1	-
Operating wheeled hoe	3	-	-	1	2
Harvesting	94	5	19	40	30
Picking	30	3	8	12	7
Cutting	25	2	2	8	13
Pulling	29	1	7	9	12
Bunching	31	2	7	10	12
Twisting	47	2	11	23	11
Picking up	14	-	2	8	4
Boxing, sacking, and packing	13	2	3	5	3
Carrying or loading	3	-	1	-	2
Trimming or cleaning	2	-	-	2	-

[1] The items do not add to the totals because some children performed more than one operation

Cultivating.—Cultivating, which lasts throughout the working season, was reported by 426 children. (Table 4.) Nearly all had weeded at some time during the year preceding the inquiry. Weeding was reported for 32 truck crops and by 412 children, or 82.2 per cent of the 501 child workers. Onions had been weeded by 357 of them. For nearly all vegetables weeding is a hand process. The children crawl on hands and knees between rows of plants and usually pull up the weeds with their hands, though a few children use a small triangular hoe with a short handle. Weeding begins in May and lasts all summer, each crop being weeded about three times. The children on farms where they are employed regularly weed part of nearly every day, with other work for variety, and a number of farmers estimated that at least one-half of the time of these children was spent in weeding.

Other methods of cultivating are hoeing with a long-handled hoe, reported by 160 children; operating a wheel hoe, commonly called hand cultivating, reported by 28 children, principally the older boys. Only 1 boy under 12 years of age and only 3 girls reported using a wheel hoe. Cultivation by machine was reported by 50 children, 5 of whom were only 10 or 11 years old; 1 of these and 1 child 13 years old were girls. Frequently the child merely leads the horse between the rows while a man guides the cultivator. Some cultivators driven by gasoline engines were used in the area, but only one boy, a farmer's son 14 years of age, reported working with one. Thinning the plants, done principally in June and July, was reported by 70 boys and 6 girls.

Harvesting.—The largest number of child workers were employed in harvesting; all except 8 of the 404 boys and all except 3 of the 97 girls had done some harvesting during the year. (Table 4.) Twisting or picking up onions was reported by 312 children, and 76 had pulled dry onions; 119 children had cut asparagus, and 94 had bunched it; 105 had bunched beets, 105 had picked beans, and 77 had bunched carrots. The number of children harvesting any other one vegetable was smaller than any of these groups. Harvesting was done by young children and girls as well as the older boys, 27 of the 29 children under 10 years of age having harvested, 15 of them having twisted or picked up onions, 10 having picked various crops, and most of them having cut, pulled, and bunched vegetables. Of the 95 children in the next older group (10 years of age but under 12) 64 twisted or picked up onions, and from 22 to 31 children reported picking, cutting, pulling, or bunching. Similar proportions were reported among the other age groups.

Harvesting operations in the principal crops on which children worked—onions and asparagus—have been described on pages (12–14). Other crops are harvested by picking, cutting, or pulling, followed frequently by bunching, or by boxing, packing, sacking, or crating, and then by washing and loading (which involves carrying), and throwing and catching, all of which processes were reported by the children interviewed.

Picking vegetables begins early in July or the latter part of June with peas and beans, successive crops of which may be picked through October. Later in July cucumbers are picked. Cucumbers to be pickled (known locally as pickles) are harvested from July to September, and large groups of children or women are frequently hired

for this work. This process involves constant stooping to the vines to pick, and straightening up to move on to the next vine. This is the only part of the work which children or women do, as the more exacting work of sorting the pickles is usually done by men. Picking peppers begins in July and lasts through October; dill is picked in August; sweet corn is picked late in July or in August for a couple of weeks; and the picking of tomatoes, the latest of all the crops on which children are engaged to any extent, begins in August or late in July and lasts until the first frost, usually early in October. With most of these crops the children's work ends with the picking, or with carrying filled baskets (most of them one-half bushel in size) to the end of the row or occasionally to the barn, washing cucumbers, packing beans in boxes, packing tomatoes in crates, and holding open burlap sacks while men put into them the ears of sweet corn.

Harvesting by cutting begins early in the summer with rhubarb, of which the leaves and roots must be cut off after the stalk has been pulled. The cutting of lettuce, spinach, mustard, and parsley begins in May or June and continues into September or October. Eggplant is cut in June and cabbage from July through October. The children put the spinach in boxes for market and pack heads of lettuce in wooden boxes; and the larger boys help to load the cabbage heads, which usually are thrown from the spot where they are cut to a man or boy on a wagon who places them in the wagon just as they will be taken to market. The cutting of cauliflower is not done by children; their work on this crop is to tie the leaves up over the heads to exclude the light and keep them white as they grow. After the cauliflower has been gathered—from May to July or August—the children cut the leaves even with the heads or still shorter, using a knife, and pack the heads in boxes which they may have lined with leaves.

The pulling of some vegetables begins early. Radishes are pulled in May and June, horse-radish and kale in June, and kohlrabi in June and July. Beets and carrots are pulled from the latter part of June until October or November, turnips and parsnips from July to October, and leeks are pulled and taken to market from the latter part of August throughout the winter. Children bunch and wash radishes, beets, carrots, turnips, leeks, and also celery, which no children reported harvesting. Children help to crate beets and carrots, and carry them and celery and radishes as well. The children bunch the pulled vegetables by selecting a suitable number (as four beets) and tying them with string. Some perform both bunching operations, and some perform either one or the other. Farmers who make a point of preparing their product for the "fancy trade" take especial care to bunch the vegetables attractively, tying celery with red tape or "making bouquets" of mustard by bending the leaves. This work frequently is done in the field. Carrots for instance are bunched and then placed on a wheelbarrow and taken to the sheds to be washed.

The carrying varies in difficulty. Crates of cauliflower or bags of sweet corn may be hauled to trucks in the field, or all vegetables may be put on a cart, such as a large square one which a 15-year-old girl was seen to pull across the road from the field to the sheds, while her father helped by pushing it. Bunches of carrots, heads of cabbages, or boxes of lettuce or spinach are often loaded on wheelbarrows, which are then wheeled to the sheds. When vegetables have been

boxed they must be lifted upon the wheelbarrow, and a wheelbarrow load of lettuce or cabbage, for example, may be heavy to push. Sometimes the crates of lettuce and cauliflower are carried to trucks in the field. Instead of a wheelbarrow a small wagon of the type used for a child's plaything is occasionally used, or a two-wheeled cart, or a box on runners similar to a sled. Onion sets are carried in wide, flat trays, usually by two boys, from the sifter to piles at the end of the field. The trays are taken from the field to the warehouse by horse and wagon, and sometimes the boys drive. Except on the highly organized large farms where occasionally men did the carrying, it seemed that picking and pulling always involved carrying the baskets at least to the end of the row the child was working on, and sometimes a longer way across the field to the sheds. Only two boys under 10 years of age had carried.

Only the older boys helped in loading, in the sense used in this report—lifting boxes upon trucks. (Table 4.) (The term "loading" is used locally to include all the processes of harvesting and preparing for market, especially packing and carrying boxes and wheeling wheelbarrows, as well as lifting boxes upon the trucks.)

Some of the boys, either members of the farmers' families or permanent workers on the farms, occasionally go into the city on the truck taking vegetables to market. This adds very considerably to the length of their working time. If the boys are with their fathers they usually sleep on the truck while the father stays awake to sell, but they help unload as the produce is sold. A boy in charge of the truck has less rest. One 15-year-old boy who reported driving a truck into market started at 5 p. m. and stayed with the truck all night, sleeping in it when possible, getting back to the farm between 9 a. m. and noon and starting to work in the field. He stated that he did this once or twice a week. Thus, on one Friday he worked in the field from 6 o'clock until 5, except for an hour at noon; then he drove the truck and sold vegetables in the market. When not selling he was with the truck from 5 p. m. until he reached the farm at 9 o'clock Saturday morning. He immediately went to work in the field until noon; then he had the afternoon off and went into the city. In other words, he was at work 30 consecutive hours except during the time he was asleep on the truck.

LENGTH OF THE WORKING DAY

Each child was requested to report his hours of work on the last day he worked prior to the interview, unless his hours on that day had been unusual. In that case he was asked his working hours on an average day on the same crop or crops. Thus the typical hours were ascertained for each important crop and operation, inasmuch as each section was visited during the height of its busy season. The hours worked by children on truck farms in the vicinity of Chicago are long; 20.8 per cent of the children included in the study worked 10 or more hours, and 42.6 per cent worked 8 or more hours on their last day of work. (Table 5.) About 50 per cent of each age group of children 10 years of age and over (and four children under 10 years) had worked 8 or more hours. The children working the longest hours were all among the resident workers, but the resident workers, nevertheless, had the second largest proportion working the shortest hours.

(Table 5.) The rural day workers and the town day workers showed the smallest proportion working 8 or more hours. On the whole, children working on farms inside the city worked the longest hours. On the South Side farms almost one-half of the workers and on the North Side one-fifth had worked less than 6 hours. (Table 6.) This difference is again due in large part to the use of child labor in cutting and bunching asparagus, a crop which is limited entirely to the district south of the city and which takes a few hours each morning, the work beginning fairly early but being finished by 10 or 11 a. m.

TABLE 5.—*Hours of field work on typical day of children working on truck crops, by kind of worker; Cook County*

Hours of field work on typical day[1]	Specified kinds of child worker under 16 years of age working on truck crops											
	Total		Resident worker		Rural day laborer		Town day laborer		City day laborer		Weekly worker[2]	Migratory worker[2]
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution		
Total	501	100.0	86	100.0	78	100.0	111	100.0	201	100.0	13	12
Less than 4 hours	62	12.4	16	18.6	3	3.8	21	18.9	19	9.5	3	----
4 hours, less than 6	110	22.0	13	15.1	26	33.3	34	30.6	33	16.4	2	2
6 hours, less than 8	74	14.8	12	14.0	18	23.1	21	18.9	21	10.4	----	2
8 hours, less than 10	109	21.8	21	24.4	17	21.8	23	20.7	42	20.9	3	3
10 hours, less than 12	98	19.6	11	12.8	8	10.3	4	3.6	68	33.8	4	3
12 hours and more	6	1.2	5	5.8	----	----	----	----	----	----	1	----
Not reported	42	8.4	8	9.3	6	7.7	8	7.2	18	9.0	----	2

[1] Includes time allowed for mid-morning and mid-afternoon lunches, but not for the noon lunch.
[2] Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 50.

TABLE 6.—*Hours of field work on typical day of children working on truck crops, by locality; Cook County*

Hours of field work on typical day[1]	Children under 16 years of age working on truck crops in specified localities							
	Total		City farms		North Side farms		South Side farms	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	501	100.0	89	100.0	155	100.0	257	100.0
Less than 4 hours	62	12.4	10	11.2	18	11.6	34	13.2
4 hours, less than 6	110	22.0	7	7.9	15	9.7	88	34.2
6 hours, less than 8	74	14.8	3	3.4	18	11.6	53	20.6
8 hours, less than 10	109	21.8	11	12.4	59	38.1	39	15.2
10 hours, less than 12	98	19.6	56	62.9	24	15.5	18	7.0
12 hours and more	6	1.2	----	----	5	3.2	1	0.4
Not reported	42	8.4	2	2.2	16	10.3	24	9.3

[1] Includes time allowed for mid-morning and mid-afternoon lunches, but not for the noon lunch.

Typical instances of the hours spent by the boys working on the North Side farms are these: One 13-year-old boy and one 15 years old left home at 5.30 a. m. and arrived home at 7.30 p. m., thus usually

being away 14 hours for work, although they reported an actual working day of only 9 hours (from 8 o'clock to 6 o'clock). Two other boys, one 12 years old and the other 13, reported leaving home at 3 a. m. and going to Jefferson Park. There they went with any farmer who would take them for a day's work, and although they worked only 8½ hours, beginning at 7.30 a. m., their working day was at least 16 hours long by the time they reached home at night. A third boy, aged 13, who left home at 3 a. m., put in 11 hours bunching green onions (being actually at work from 6 a. m. to 5 p. m.).

The time at which a child begins work is significant when noted in connection with the distance he must travel and the time consumed in reaching the place of work. The actual hours at which work begins do not indicate the whole problem. (See p. 11.) More than one-half of the 456 children reporting the hour at which they began work the day before the interview did not begin until 8 o'clock or later, and only 25 (5.5 per cent) started work before 7 o'clock, including boys who began work before 6 o'clock. No child workers reported starting work on farms in the city before 7 a. m. Four-fifths of the workers in the city who reported the hour began between 7 and 8 o'clock, and almost all of them lived near the farms on which they worked. Among the workers of the North and South Sides, on the other hand, where the distance of the work from home made the working day much longer than the hours of actual labor, 36.7 per cent and 43.5 per cent, respectively, of those reporting on this point began work before 8 o'clock (which usually meant not later than 7 or 7.30). All the 24 children who lived 10 miles or more from their work were on North Side farms. Ten of the 25 who reported beginning work before 7 o'clock were working at home, but 8 of them came a mile or more. One 12-year-old boy came 14 miles from his home in Chicago by electric car to the end of the line in Jefferson Park. There a farmer met him and took him the rest of the way in an automobile. He picked up onions from 6 a. m. until 5 p. m., with an hour off at noon, and was taken by automobile back to Jefferson Park.

More children were taken to work in automobiles and trucks than in any other way. This means of conveyance was reported by 144 of the 413 children who worked away from home and reported their transportation. Others went by electric and steam railways and by bus, and 22 used two or more such means of transportation. Where the distance was not great bicycles were in use, and 181 children walked, 56 of them 1 mile or more. Fourteen children under 12 years of age came distances of 5 to 10 miles, and 2 of them used two kinds of conveyances. The farmer furnished only the automobile transportation if he furnished any.

Among the child workers 25, of whom 19 were paid, reported that they had started work before 7 o'clock on the day before they were interviewed; 196, of whom 170 were paid, had worked more than 8 hours on that day; 17, all paid, had worked more than 6 days of the week preceding the day of the interview; and 97, of whom 82 were paid, had worked more than 48 hours during that week. The Illinois child labor law provides that no child under the age of 16 may be employed at any gainful occupation more than 6 days in any one week, or more than 8 hours in any one day, or before 7 a. m. or after

7 p. m.,[6] so that nominally, at least, the provision of the law relating to hours covers farm work, and all the children referred to above as having worked for compensation in violation of these standards had been illegally employed. Such legal provisions, however, are difficult, if not impossible, to enforce on farms through an inspection system such as is employed in the enforcement of the child labor law in factories or stores; and, as in most States where the child labor law applies to "any gainful occupation," its provisions are not enforced in agricultural work.

Although the farmers interviewed were very nearly unanimous in asserting that children's work was needed on truck farms and that the work on the truck farms was good for the children, the more intelligent farmers in all districts included in the study said that strict compliance with the present law in regard to hours would work no hardship on anyone. One man in the district where the earliest hours prevailed remarked that early-morning work was not valuable because of the difficulty of working while the crops were wet with dew and that custom alone was responsible for the hour of beginning work, and especially for the earliness of the hour at which the workers and farmers assembled to bargain for the day's work. A farmer in the locality in which the longest working days were usual said that an 8-hour day would be entirely satisfactory; on his farm it would simply mean sending the boys home at 4 p. m. instead of 6 p. m. One man who farmed on a large scale and specialized in a few products believed that in view of the difficulties involved in the employment of children and the small amount of work they did their employment was not worth while. He believed that only an appreciation of the facts by the public was needed to stop all employment of children on the truck farms.

The amount of work done by children at the same time that they are attending school offers a serious problem in the Chicago district. Information concerning work within the school term was not obtained in regard to 90 children (owing to the fact that the prevalence of such work was not noted until after the study had been started and a number of children already interviewed); but 211 (54.2 per cent) of the 389 children who were enrolled in school and for whom information on this point was obtained had worked during their school term (Table 7); 155 of these were under 14 years of age, and 131 of them had received compensation. Those under 14 included 107 children of 12 and 13 years and 12 under 10 years. It was found that 23 of the 211 children had worked three months or more and 62 had worked two months or more while they were carrying on their school work. This farm work was done at various times, after and before school, on Saturdays, and on Sundays. There are included 20 who stayed away from school to work as well as working at other times, 127 who worked on Saturdays (27 of these worked only on Saturdays), 1 who worked on Saturdays and Sundays only, 99 who worked either before or after school as well as on Saturdays, and 6 who worked 7 days in the week. In addition, 49 worked only after school, 7 worked before and after school, and 2 before school only. For 6 children no report of the time of the work was obtained. The largest number, 72, reported work after school and on Saturdays. There were 33 who reported work before school. This group is the

[6] Ill., Rev. Stat. (Cahill's) 1925, ch. 48, par. 52.

one frequently mentioned by teachers as indicative of a bad aspect of farm work. The Illinois child labor law forbids the employment for compensation of any child under 14 "during any portion of any month when the public schools * * * are in session,"[7] but this provision of the law, like the provision concerning hours, is not applied to work on farms even when the children are working as hired laborers.

TABLE 7.—*Duration of field work during school year of children of specified ages working on truck crops; Cook County*

Duration of field work during school year 1923–24[1]	Children of specified ages working on truck crops								
	Number	Per cent distribution	Under 10 years[2]	10 years, under 12		12 years, under 14		14 years, under 16	
				Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	501		29	95		214		163	
Attending school	479		28	95		212		144	
Reporting duration of field work during school year	389	100.0	22	82	100.0	173	100.0	112	100.0
No work done	178	45.8	10	46	56.1	66	38.2	56	50.0
Less than 6 days' work	38	9.8	1	5	6.1	22	12.7	10	8.9
6 days' work, less than 12	26	6.7		4	4.9	13	7.5	9	8.0
12 days' work, less than 30	47	12.1	7	9	11.0	20	11.6	11	9.8
30 days' work, less than 60	38	9.8	2	7	8.5	23	13.3	6	5.4
60 days' work, less than 90	39	10.0	2	8	9.8	18	10.4	11	9.8
90 days' work or more	23	5.9		3	3.7	11	6.4	9	8.0
Not reporting duration of field work	90		6	13		39		32	
Not attending school	22		1			2		19	

[1] Includes morning and evening work and work on Saturdays as well as absences from school for field work.
[2] Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 50.

DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT

The work of children on truck farms is very irregular because many farmers employ children only when perishable crops must be harvested quickly. Even during the peak of the harvesting season a child may consume a day in looking for work and find none. The irregular character of the work on truck farms even during the busy season is indicated by the children's reports of the number of hours they had worked during the week preceding the visit of the agent. More than one-half of the 442 children reporting on this point had been employed less than 24 hours during the week, and nearly one-fourth had been employed less than 12 hours. Of the 484 who reported the number of days they had worked during the week 209 (43.2 per cent) had worked only one, two, or three days. The irregularity of the work is also shown by the fact that although during the first

[7] Ibid.; par. 44.

part of the study no record was kept of children unless they had worked at least 12 days (see p. 7) a record begun some time after the study was under way revealed that 97 children on the farms visited had worked some time, although they had not had 12 days' employment. Nevertheless, 44.7 per cent of the children interviewed had spent at least one month, though less than three months, in actual work during the year; and 26.5 per cent had worked three months or more. (Table 8.) Long duration of work was noted principally among the resident workers, two-thirds of whom had worked three months or more. The proportion of children working three months or more was only slightly greater among the older children than among the younger ones, for 28.7 per cent of the 14-year-old and 15-year-old children reporting the duration of their work, 30.2 per cent of the 12-year-old and 13-year-old children reporting, and 25.9 per cent of the children under 12 years of age had worked three months or more during the year.

TABLE 8.—*Duration of field work of children working on truck crops, by kind of worker; Cook County*

Duration of field work	Specified kinds of child worker under 16 years of age working on truck crops											
	Total		Resident worker		Rural day laborer		Town day laborer		City day laborer		Weekly worker[1]	Migratory worker[1]
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution		
Total	501	100.0	86	100.0	78	100.0	111	100.0	201	100.0	13	12
12 days, less than 1 month	106	21.2	1	1.2	22	28.2	44	39.6	38	18.9	1	-------
1 month, less than 2	112	22.4	1	1.2	27	34.6	38	34.2	44	21.9	1	1
2 months, less than 3	112	22.4	16	18.6	18	23.1	16	14.4	49	24.4	6	7
3 months, less than 4	65	13.0	26	30.2	7	9.0	9	8.1	19	9.5	3	1
4 months, less than 5	36	7.2	13	15.1	2	2.6	2	1.8	19	9.5	-------	-------
5 months and more	32	6.4	19	22.1	-------	-------	-------	-------	12	6.0	1	-------
Not reported	38	7.6	10	11.6	2	2.6	2	1.8	20	10.0	1	3

[1] Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 50.

EARNINGS OF CHILD WORKERS

Payment for work on truck farms may be on a time basis or a piece basis. Young children are paid by the piece for work for which older and expert children and women are paid hourly or daily wages. Time wages for children vary according to age, the length of time each child has been working, and trustworthiness. On one farm the children's wages for general and mixed work, such as weeding, pulling, and bunching, varied from 80 cents to $1.25 a day. On another farm they varied from 80 cents to $2.50 a day. The largest number of children received $1, and the next largest number received $1.25 a day for such work. Hourly rates varied from 10 to 25 cents and monthly wages from $20 and $25 to $40.

Work on onions was paid on both time and piece basis. Children weeding onions received 8 to 20 cents an hour. A rate per bushel or half bushel for twisting and picking up onion sets was usual; and it varied from 4 to 20 cents per bushel according to the difficulty of the work. The commonest rate was 8 cents. Some of this variation is due to the efforts of the farmers to grade the payment in accordance with the difficulty of the work, as on one farm where rates of both 5 cents and 7 cents were being paid because of the different quality of soil. Payment on a time basis varied from 50 cents to $3 a day. The commonest rates were $1.50 and $1.75. Sometimes both types of payment were made on one farm at the same time, as on one farm where 5 cents per bushel and $3 per day were being paid for twisting and picking up onion sets and on another where the payment was 10 cents a bushel and $2 a day. If there were many workers the onion twister or picker working on piece rates received a ticket which he had punched each time he brought a basket to the screen; or else each person was given a number and he called this out as he carried his basket toward the screen, a checker making a note opposite the number on a pay sheet. Sifting was always paid for on a time basis, but the rate varied from 75 cents to $2.50 a day. Twisting dry onions was paid for at a rate of about 6 cents per bushel, and topping at $1.25 a day. Pulling and bunching green onions was usually paid for at the rate of 1 cent per bunch, yet 1 cent per bunch and $1.50 per day were both paid on one farm, and $1 and $1.50 per day on another. Rates for other crops varied similarly, picking peas being paid for at 12½ cents per half bushel, and also by the day; beans at 10 cents per box, and also at $1.75 a day. Sugar beets were paid for usually on contract at $25 an acre for all the work during the season; or, if otherwise, at 25 cents an hour. Cutting asparagus was paid for on a time basis, the rate varying from 10 to 30 cents an hour. Rates in the same locality varied for no apparent reason, but on the same farm were graduated according to the ability of the child, as on one farm where the children received 21, 22, 23, and 24 cents per hour, and on another 10, 20, and 30 cents per hour. The most usual rates found were 18, 20, and 25 cents per hour.

Only 74 children had worked without pay on the day before the interview (Table 9), and only 71 had not received payment during the previous week, all being members of farmers' families. More than one-third (36.6 per cent) of the 377 children who reported their earnings on the last day of work, which was considered typical had earned $1 and less than $1.50. More than three-fifths (61.8 per cent) of the 136 children reporting time worked had worked 8 hours or more to obtain this amount; and nearly two-fifths of them (38.9 per cent) worked 10 hours or more. All except 1 of the workers under 10 years of age earned less than $1.50, and only 4 of the 15 reporting earned as much as 50 cents. More than four-fifths (83.8 per cent) of the 68 reporting who were 10 and 11 years old earned less than $1.50. The largest number of all workers 12 years of age or over (74 of the 166 reporting who were 12 and 13 years old, and 42 of the 128 who were 14 and 15 years old) earned $1 and less than $1.50, only 8 of those 14 or over earning less than 50 cents. More of the rural and city day laborers and weekly workers were in the class earning $1 and less than $1.50 on the typical day than were in any other. But the town day laborers were almost evenly divided

among the three classes earning less than $1.50, 69 of the 97 children earning and reporting wages being in these groups. The earnings most frequently reported were $1 or some amount less than $1.50; yet south of the city almost as large a number of earnings were between 50 cents and $1, and on the farms north of the city almost as many earnings were between $1.50 and $2. The lower earnings on farms south of the city were probably due to the shorter working-day of asparagus workers, who were found only on these farms. Most of the children working without payment, 51 of the 74 who had received no wages, were found in the northern section where the proportion of workers who were farmers' sons and daughters was largest. Children working without wages were more than one-third (35.4 per cent) of the 144 reporting on wages in that section. But only 4 of the 89 workers on city farms and 19 of the 218 workers reporting in the southern section were in this group.

TABLE 9.—*Earnings of children for field work on truck crops, by hours of work on typical day; Cook County*

Earnings on typical day [2]	Children under 16 years of age working on truck crops specified number of hours on typical day [1]											
				4 hours, less than 6		6 hours, less than 8		8 hours, less than 10		10 hours, less than 12		
	Number	Per cent distribution	Less than 4 hours [3]	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	12 hours and more [3]	Hours not reported [3]
Total	501	------	62	110	------	74	------	109	------	98	------	6	42
Receiving earnings	377	100.0	45	91	100.0	55	100.0	87	100.0	88	100.0	2	9
Less than 50 cents	56	14.9	37	13	14.3	3	5.5	3	3.4	------	------	------	------
50 cents, less than $1	78	20.7	6	43	47.3	14	25.5	8	9.2	4	4.5	2	1
$1, less than $1.50	138	36.6	2	33	36.3	17	30.9	31	35.6	53	60.2	------	2
$1.50, less than $2	60	15.9	------	1	1.1	15	27.3	20	23.0	18	20.5	------	6
$2, less than $2.50	19	5.0	------	1	1.1	3	5.5	11	12.6	4	4.5	------	------
$2.50 and more	26	6.9	------	------	------	3	5.5	14	16.1	9	10.2	------	------
Receiving no earnings	74	------	12	14	------	12	------	17	------	6	------	3	10
Not reporting	50	------	5	5	------	7	------	5	------	4	------	1	23

[1] Includes time allowed for mid-morning and mid-afternoon lunches but not for noon lunch.
[2] Does not include lunches or meals if supplied by employer.
[3] Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 50.

Of the 359 children earning wages and reporting the amount earned during the week preceding the interview, 153 (42.6 per cent) earned less than $3 per week, and 253 (70.5 per cent) earned less than $6. (Table 10.) Of those earning less than $3 per week 94 (62.7 per cent of the 150 reporting the number of hours they had worked during the week) had worked less than 12 hours and only 8 worked 24 hours or more. The great majority had worked only one or two days during the week. To earn between $3 and $6 took from three to six days' work for 87 of the 100 children reporting those amounts. More than

one-half the 67 workers who reported earnings of $6 but less than $9 worked six days, and all but 10 worked five days or more, none having worked less than three days. Only 3 of the 39 who reported earnings of $9 or more worked less than five days. Among the children who put in the equivalent of a full-time week (48 hours or more) the usual amount earned was from $6 to $11. Three-fifths of the children earned $6 but less than $12. The town and the rural day laborers were found in the largest numbers among those earning less than $3 per week, but the city day workers were in almost equal numbers in the three groups earning less than $9, with only 16 of the 177 reporting weekly earnings receiving as much as $9.

Payment of wages was made at short intervals, very few children waiting longer than one week for their earnings. Weekly payments were made to 267 of the 424 children reporting the interval of payment, daily payments to 51, and payments at the end of the season to 74. As payment by the season was most frequent in the harvesting of onion sets and green onions, which usually takes only a few days, many of the workers paid by the season waited less than a week for payment.

TABLE 10.—*Earnings of children for field work on truck crops, by days of field work during typical week; Cook County*

Earnings in typical week	Children under 16 years of age working specified number of days during typical week													
	Number	Per cent distribution	1 day		2 days		3 days [1]	4 days [1]	5 days		6 days		7 days [1]	Number of days not reported [1]
			Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution			Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution		
Total	501	------	70	------	78	------	61	55	87	------	116	------	17	17
Receiving earnings	359	100.0	63	100.0	66	100.0	45	34	54	100.0	80	100.0	17	----
Less than $3	153	42.6	62	98.4	53	80.3	15	10	6	11.1	5	6.3	2	----
$3, less than $6	100	27.9	1	1.6	12	18.2	25	17	22	40.7	21	26.3	2	----
$6, less than $9	67	18.7	----	------	----	------	3	7	19	35.2	35	43.8	3	----
$9, less than $12	21	5.8	----	------	1	1.5	1	----	3	5.6	10	12.5	6	----
$12 and more	18	5.0	----	------	----	------	1	----	4	7.4	9	11.3	4	----
Receiving no earnings	71	------	2	------	7	------	5	12	22	------	23	------	----	----
Not reporting earnings	71	------	5	------	5	------	11	9	11	------	13	------	----	17

[1] Per cent distribution not shown where base is less than 50.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND SCHOOL PROGRESS

Absence from school in order to work on truck farms was not found to be customary among the children in the Chicago district. Only 20 of the 466 children included in the study who were enrolled in school and who reported regarding work during school hours stated that they had worked while school was in session—11 of the 77 resident workers who reported on this point and 9 of the 389 nonresident workers.

Of the 501 children included in the study 442 were enrolled in school for the entire school year preceding the study, and no report was made for 31 children. All except 4 of the remaining 28 were 14 or 15 years

of age and were therefore exempt from school attendance if legally and necessarily employed.[8] (Table 11.)

TABLE 11.—*School attendance during the school year 1923–24 of boys and girls working on truck crops, by place of residence; Cook County*

Per cent of school attendance, and sex of the children	Children of specified residence working on truck crops							
	Total		Residing in Chicago		Residing in other cities or towns of 2,500 or more inhabitants		Residing in rural communities	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution [1]	Number	Per cent distribution [1]	Number	Per cent distribution [1]
Total	501		222		118		161	
Reporting attendance for entire school year	442	100.0	200	100.0	107	100.0	135	100.0
Attending less than 80 per cent	37	8.4	7	3.5	7	6.5	23	17.0
Attending 80 per cent, less than 90 per cent	63	14.3	20	10.0	19	17.8	24	17.8
Attending 90 per cent, less than 100 per cent	318	71.9	158	79.0	75	70.1	85	63.0
Attending entire year	24	5.4	15	7.5	6	5.6	3	2.2
Absent entire year or one-half year	28		14		7		7	
Not reporting attendance	31		8		4		19	
Boys	404		198		88		118	
Reporting attendance for entire school year	365	100.0	181	100.0	81	100.0	103	100.0
Attending less than 80 per cent	30	8.2	6	3.3	5	6.2	19	18.4
Attending 80 per cent, less than 90 per cent	50	13.7	16	8.8	17	21.0	17	16.5
Attending 90 per cent, less than 100 per cent	264	72.3	145	80.1	55	67.9	64	62.1
Attending entire year	21	5.8	14	7.7	4	4.9	3	2.9
Absent entire year or one-half year	17		10		5		2	
Not reporting attendance	22		7		2		13	
Girls	97		24		30		43	
Reporting attendance for entire school year	77	100.0	19	100.0	26	100.0	32	100.0
Attending less than 80 per cent	7	9.1	1		2		4	
Attending 80 per cent, less than 90 per cent	13	16.9	4		2		7	
Attending 90 per cent, less than 100 per cent	54	70.1	13		20		21	
Attending entire year	3	3.9	1		2			
Absent entire year or one-half year	11		4		2		5	
Not reporting attendance	9		1		2		6	

[1] Not shown where base is less than 50.

The 222 workers included in this study who lived in Chicago had the advantage of a compulsory school attendance law enforced in accordance with city standards of enforcement. Moreover, unlike seasonal workers migrating to the farms for the duration of their employment, they did not suffer the disadvantages of moving out of the jurisdiction of the schools that they attended ordinarily. Their school attendance was therefore considerably better than that of most children whose farm work has been investigated. It was found that 86.5 per cent

[8] Ill., Rev. Stat. (Cahill's) 1925, ch. 122, par. 398.

of the 200 Chicago children who were enrolled in school the entire year and for whom school records were obtained had attended school at least 90 per cent of the school year preceding the study. (Table 11.) This percentage was smaller than that of some groups of city children working on farms near other cities where the Children's Bureau made studies. For example, 94 per cent of a group of children from Hartford, Conn., who worked by the day on tobacco farms in the vicinity of that city and with whom the Chicago truck-farm workers may be compared fairly had attended school 90 per cent of the school year or longer.[9]

The school attendance of child workers residing in other towns than Chicago and in the country was less regular than of those who lived in Chicago. It was found that 75.7 per cent of the town workers who were enrolled in school and for whom reports were obtained and 65.2 per cent of those living in the country had attended at least 90 per cent of the school year. The percentage of school attendance among the rural children was higher than that found by the Children's Bureau among some other groups of children who lived in the country and worked on farms. For example, only 24.2 per cent of the resident white children working on truck farms in Maryland counties who were enrolled in school and for whom reports on attendance were obtained, had attended school at least 90 per cent of the school year; and among resident child workers on truck farms in New Jersey only 18.8 per cent had attended 90 per cent of the school year or more.[10] However, the percentage of school attendance among the child workers living in the country and working on farms near Chicago is lower than that generally found by the Children's Bureau among rural children in Massachusetts working on tobacco farms or among rural children working on truck and small-fruit farms in Washington and Oregon. The Children's Bureau found that 71 per cent of the rural Massachusetts children, 74 per cent of those studied in the Willamette Valley, Oreg., 86 per cent of those in the Puyallup Valley, Wash., and 65 per cent of those in the Yakima Valley, Wash., had attended school at least 90 per cent of the school year,[11] compared with 65.2 per cent of the children living in the country and working on truck farms near Chicago.

The good school-attendance record of the children working on the truck farms in the Chicago district is reflected in their school progress. (Table 12.) Among the children attending Chicago schools 21.2 per cent were retarded.[12] This percentage is somewhat less than the average retardation for city school children.[13] Of the children included in the study who attended schools in other places of 2,500 or more inhabitants 38.1 per cent were retarded, and of those attending rural schools 30.6 per cent were retarded. The

[9] Child Labor in Representative Tobacco-Growing Areas, by Harriet A. Byrne, p. 39. U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 155. Washington, 1926.

[10] Percentages compiled from figures obtained in Children's Bureau studies.

[11] See Child Labor in Representative Tobacco-Growing Areas, p. 40 (U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 155, Washington, 1926); Child Labor in Fruit and Hop Growing Districts of the Northern Pacific Coast, pp. 16, 44 (U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 151, Washington, 1926).

[12] The age basis upon which retardation has been calculated is that adopted by the U. S. Bureau of Education. Children are expected to enter the first grade at the age of 6 or 7 years and to complete one grade each year. A child is therefore considered retarded if he is 8 or over on entering the first grade, 9 or over on entering the second, etc.

[13] The average percentage of retardation for city school children is 26.6 as computed from age-grade statistics from Statistical Survey of Education, 1921–22 (U. S. Bureau of Education Bulletin, 1924, No. 38, Washington, 1925).

percentage of retarded children among white truck-farm workers living on or near the farms on which they worked in Maryland and New Jersey was from 38 to 56.8.[14]

TABLE 12.—*School progress of children between 8 and 16 years of age[1] working on truck farms, by place of residence; Cook County*

School progress	Children of specified residence between 8 and 16 years of age working on truck crops							
	Total		Residing in Chicago		Residing in other places of 2,500 inhabitants or more		Rural	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	497	100.0	222	100.0	118	100.0	157	100.0
Retarded	140	28.2	47	21.2	45	38.1	48	30.6
1 year	63	12.7	27	12.2	19	16.1	17	10.8
2 years	50	10.1	13	5.9	19	16.1	18	11.5
3 years and more	27	5.4	7	3.2	7	5.9	13	8.3
Normal	271	54.5	133	59.9	56	47.5	82	52.2
Advanced	82	16.5	41	18.5	16	13.6	25	15.9
Not reported	4	.8	1	.5	1	.8	2	1.3

[1] Children under 8 years of age have been excluded because they can not be retarded.

SUMMARY

A large proportion of the 501 children interviewed on truck farms in the truck-farming region around Chicago came to the farms to work by the day. Only a few resided on the farms. The great majority of the workers were the sons and daughters of foreign-born industrial workers and lived in the cities or towns of the district. Their families had been residents of the United States for long periods, and most of the fathers spoke English and were able to read and write. The Chicago children had made fair progress in school, and even those living in other towns in the area or on farms were less retarded in school than most other groups of child workers on farms. Except among some of the children of farmers the amount of absence from school was not serious.

The principal season during which children are employed on the truck farms corresponds closely to the three months of the summer vacation, although there is some employment throughout the year. The work is irregular, but it totaled several months of employment a year for a majority of the children interviewed. The children weed and harvest a large variety of crops. Weeding various crops, twisting onions, cutting asparagus, pulling beets and carrots, and picking beans are the principal kinds of work, and none of it appears to be particularly arduous except when continued for long hours. It was found that 196 children had worked more than 8 hours on the working-day which they reported as typical, and 104 had worked 10 hours or more. The length of the child's working-day is increased by

[14] See Child Labor on Maryland Truck Farms, pp. 19, 49 (U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 123, Washington, 1923) and Work of Children on Truck and Small-Fruit Farms in Southern New Jersey, p. 20 (U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 132, Washington, 1924).

the distance between his home and his work. Work before or after school or on Saturdays or Sundays during the school term was reported by 155 children under 14 years of age, of whom 131 were hired laborers.

The problem of child labor on truck farms near Chicago is the problem of the child working away from home at an early age, working long hours, going long distances over complicated routes at hours too early in the morning and too late in the evening, to places of employment unknown to his parents, and, in some sections, with no certainty of finding work after the effort has been made. Illinois has prescribed in its child labor law the number of hours in a day and in a week that a child may work at any gainful occupation; and in order that the child up to the age of 14 years, at least, may benefit from the educational facilities provided by the people the State has decreed that he may not work for compensation during the school year. The provisions of this law have not been applied to the work of children on farms, and little thought has been given to the need for protecting child workers in agriculture from work either at too early an age or for too long hours.

GENERAL FARMING

The districts selected for the study of children's work in general farming in Illinois represent the varied agricultural conditions characteristic of the State. (See p. 1.) Livingston County lies in the fertile corn-growing region of northern Illinois, where almost all the land is tillable and its value is high.[1] The farmers are chiefly tenants of a prosperous type. Good roads and large farms with well-constructed and well-kept farm buildings and comfortable houses give evidence of its prosperity. In Marion County the soil is of the poorest in the State, and some of the land is still uncleared. Roads other than the main highways are poor. Fruit (peaches, pears, and apples), hay, and forage are the principal crops although some wheat is raised. It is a country of struggling farm owners, and the homes visited during the course of the study were at best only moderately comfortable. Some were mere shacks, and there was even an occasional log house. Few had even the simplest conveniences. Shallow wells or springs, liable to pollution, were quite commonly the only source of water supply; and toilet facilities were poor or lacking. Shelby County, lying midway between the other two counties, has some of the characteristics of each. In the northern half lie fertile farms devoted to the production of corn, but in the south the soil is poorer and is better adapted to the cultivation of wheat and hay. Land values at their best do not equal those in Livingston County, but they surpass those in Marion County.[2] Many of the farms are owned by absentee landlords, some of whom allow their places to deteriorate. Farm owners are fairly prosperous, but the tenants are a poorer class than those in Livingston County and move frequently from farm to farm. Although some houses are of a very poor type they are on the whole more comfortable and better equipped than those in Marion County.

In all three counties both owners and tenants farm on a large scale. Under the type of agriculture prevailing throughout this section of the country the farm of less than 100 acres does not permit an efficient use of machinery and horsepower,[3] and the farmer who owns only a small acreage usually rents additional land in order to utilize his equipment to the best advantage. The three counties are alike also in that they are predominantly rural and their farm population is made up of native white families.

Collection of information for the study was begun in April, 1923, and continued until July of the same year. Agents of the Children's Bureau interviewed all children between 7 and 16 years of age attending school in 53 school districts in Livingston County, except those who were absent from school on the day of the interview. In Marion and Shelby Counties the schools closed for the summer before the

[1] Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Vol. VI, Part 1, Agriculture, p. 381. Washington, 1922.
[2] Ibid., pp. 376 ff.
[3] A Farm Management Survey of Three Representative Areas in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, by E. H. Thomson and H. M. Dixon, pp. 28, 42. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bulletin 41. Washington, 1914.

study was begun, but the enrollment of the schools in 24 school districts in Marion County and 31 in Shelby County was obtained, and the children enrolled in these schools (or their families) were interviewed at home. Although the procedure was therefore somewhat different in Livingston County from that in Shelby and Marion Counties the proportion of the pupils interviewed was about the same—91 per cent of the enrollment of the Livingston County schools, 92 per cent of that of the Marion County schools, and 95 per cent of that of the Shelby County schools. In addition to the children enrolled in school in the selected school districts the children living in these districts but not enrolled in any school were interviewed so far as they could be located. Only 16 such children were found in the selected districts in the three counties. A record of school attendance for the school year 1922–23 was obtained from school registers for each child included in the study for whom it was available. The agent asked each child the cause of each absence recorded against him. Only those children were included in the study who were known to have lived on a farm during the entire year prior to the interview (so that they might fairly be considered to represent farm children) and who had worked in the fields at least 12 days of 6 hours or more during the year preceding the inquiry.

THE CHILD WORKERS

During the progress of the study the statement was frequently heard that owing to the scarcity of labor resulting from the migration of young men from the farms and to the lack of ready cash resulting from recent hard times the farmers were depending more and more upon their children for assistance on the farms. Almost all the boys 12 years of age and older and almost one-half of those under 12 who were interviewed had worked on the farms. Nearly one-third of the girls between 12 and 16, and one-tenth of those under 12 reported that they had done farm work. (Table 13.) There was little difference among the counties in the proportion of children who had worked, though it was somewhat larger both for boys and for girls in Marion County, the least prosperous of the three, than in either of the other two counties. Only 140 of the 737 working children included in the study were girls, and only 99 children were under 10 years of age. The situation on these Illinois farms is very different from that on farms where a great deal of hand work is necessary in cultivating and harvesting the crops and where most of the work is very simple. On truck and small-fruit farms, for example, and in cotton and tobacco fields almost as many girls as boys are found at work; in some rural districts nearly every child who has reached the age of 10 works in the fields, and fully one-fourth of the children under 16 who do farm work are under 10. On farms where the principal crops are wheat, corn, oats, and hay, machinery is largely used, and not much of the work can be done by girls or small children. The proportions of school children of the various age groups who had done farm work on the general farms of these Illinois districts were very similar to those found in the Children's Bureau survey of child labor on the wheat and potato raising farms of North Dakota, although a much larger proportion of the workers in North Dakota were girls

(but this is probably because a number of foreign-born families in which it was customary for girls to do field work were represented in the latter study).[4]

TABLE 13.—*Children of specified age and sex doing field work in each county; Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties*

Age and county	Children between 7 and 16 years of age														
	Total—					Boys—					Girls—				
	Total	Doing field work		Not doing field work		Total	Doing field work		Not doing field work		Total	Doing field work		Not doing field work	
		Number	Per cent [1]	Number	Per cent [1]		Number	Per cent [1]	Number	Per cent [1]		Number	Per cent [1]	Number	Per cent [1]
Total	1,672	737	44.1	935	55.9	885	597	67.5	288	32.5	787	140	17.8	647	82.2
7 years, under 8	179	12	6.7	167	93.3	89	9	10.1	80	89.9	90	3	3.3	87	96.7
8 years, under 10	386	87	22.5	299	77.5	203	70	34.5	133	65.5	183	17	9.3	166	90.7
10 years, under 12	376	179	47.6	197	52.4	194	153	78.9	41	21.1	182	26	14.3	156	85.7
12 years, under 14	397	243	61.2	154	38.8	213	199	93.4	14	6.6	184	44	23.9	140	76.1
14 years, under 16	291	211	72.5	80	27.5	165	162	98.2	3	1.8	126	49	38.9	77	61.1
Not reported	43	5	----	38	-----	21	4	-----	17	----	22	1	----	21	----
Livingston County	560	237	42.3	323	57.7	314	191	60.8	123	39.2	246	46	18.7	200	81.3
7 years, under 8	58	7	12.1	51	87.9	35	6	-----	29	----	23	1	----	22	----
8 years, under 10	142	34	23.9	108	76.1	82	27	32.9	55	67.1	60	7	11.7	53	88.3
10 years, under 12	118	56	47.5	62	52.5	65	47	72.3	18	27.7	53	9	17.0	44	83.0
12 years, under 14	134	86	64.2	48	35.8	75	69	92.0	6	8.0	59	17	28.8	42	71.2
14 years, under 16	74	54	73.0	20	27.0	43	42	-----	1	----	31	12	----	19	----
Not reported	34	----	----	34	-----	14	----	-----	14	----	20	----	----	20	----
Shelby County	608	250	41.1	358	58.9	312	212	67.9	100	32.1	296	38	12.8	258	87.2
7 years, under 8	67	----	----	67	100.0	29	----	-----	29	----	38	----	----	38	----
8 years, under 10	123	19	15.4	104	84.6	59	17	28.8	42	71.2	64	2	3.1	62	96.9
10 years, under 12	137	58	42.3	79	57.7	71	52	73.2	19	26.8	66	6	9.1	60	90.9
12 years, under 14	152	79	52.0	73	48.0	78	70	89.7	8	10.3	74	9	12.2	65	87.8
14 years, under 16	124	91	73.4	33	26.6	72	71	98.6	1	1.4	52	20	38.5	32	61.5
Not reported	5	3	----	2	-----	3	2	-----	1	----	2	1	----	1	----
Marion County	504	250	49.6	254	50.4	259	194	74.9	65	25.1	245	56	22.9	189	77.1
7 years, under 8	54	5	9.3	49	90.7	25	3	-----	22	----	29	2	----	27	----
8 years, under 10	121	34	28.1	87	71.9	62	26	41.9	36	58.1	59	8	13.6	51	86.4
10 years, under 12	121	65	53.7	56	46.3	58	54	93.1	4	6.9	63	11	17.5	52	82.5
12 years, under 14	111	78	70.3	33	29.7	60	60	100.0	----	-----	51	18	35.3	33	64.7
14 years, under 16	93	66	71.0	27	29.0	50	49	98.0	1	2.0	43	17	----	26	----
Not reported	4	2	----	2	-----	4	2	-----	2	----	----	----	----	----	----

[1] Not shown where base is less than 50.

Most of the child workers on these Illinois farms are farmers' children (Table 14) of native white parentage. There is no need for the employment of large numbers of workers at rush seasons as on truck and fruit farms where quantities of a perishable product must be harvested within a few days; hence the migratory worker or the day laborer from near-by towns is not found in this section. The majority (61 per cent) of the farmers whose children were included in the study in Livingston County, like the farm operators in the county as a whole in 1920, were tenants; in Marion County the majority (73

[4] Child Labor in North Dakota, pp. 1, 8. U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 129. Washington, 923.

per cent), again like the farmers in the county as a whole, were owners; and in Shelby County somewhat more than one-half the fathers, like farmers in the county as a whole, owned their farms and somewhat fewer than one-half rented them.[5] A few of the fathers represented in the study left the management of their farms to older children and themselves engaged in another occupation, such as mining or railroading; but almost all the families were entirely dependent on the farm for their livelihood.

The acreage of most of the farms owned or rented by the families with children who had worked was somewhat larger than that of the average farm in the counties. In Livingston County the average acreage per farm for the farm families represented in the study and reporting on the acreage of their farm was 200, as compared with 171 in the county; in Marion County it was 134, as compared with 107; and in Shelby County 137, as compared with 117.[5]

TABLE 14.—*Farm status of chief breadwinners of families of children doing field work; Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties*

Farm status of chief breadwinner	Families of children doing field work			
	Total	Livingston County	Shelby County	Marion County
Total	534	174	196	164
Farm owner	287	55	112	120
Farm tenant	226	104	79	43
Other	18	12	5	1
Not reported	3	3		

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Place of employment.

The children working on general farms work in the fields with the older members of the family. Some are called upon for light tasks only; but others serve as regular field hands, helping with anything that has to be done. Their work begins early in the spring with the breaking of ground and continues intermittently through the planting of crops and the period of cultivation until the harvest is completed in the late fall or early winter. Many of the children included in the study worked only for their parents on the home farm, but 301 (about two-fifths of the child workers) assisted neighboring farmers in addition to their work at home, and 25 children (including 4 girls) worked exclusively as hired laborers.

Duration of work.

The majority of the children included in the study did not work long—27 per cent of the working children had worked less than one month (of 26 working days), and 31 per cent had worked between one and two months during the year preceding the inquiry. Yet 124 children (17 per cent) had worked three months or more, either consecutively, fairly consecutively, or intermittently throughout the year, and 14 children had worked six months. Of these 124 children

[5] Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Vol. VI, Part I, Agriculture, pp. 381, 382, 384. Washington, 1922.

18 were under 12 years of age and 34 were between 12 and 14. Boys more often than girls worked a considerable length of time. (Table 15.)

TABLE 15.—*Duration of field work of children, by age and sex; Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties*

Duration of field work, and sex of the children	Children of specified ages doing field work					
	Total	7 years, under 10	10 years, under 12	12 years, under 14	14 years, under 16	Age not reported
Total	737	99	179	243	211	5
Less than 1 month	200	47	64	52	35	2
1 month, less than 2	231	38	77	74	41	1
2 months, less than 3	140	10	16	69	45	
3 months, less than 4	70	2	10	24	33	1
4 months and more	54	1	5	10	37	1
Not reported	42	1	7	14	20	
Boys	597	79	153	199	162	4
Less than 1 month	128	36	49	32	9	2
1 month, less than 2	185	32	68	56	28	1
2 months, less than 3	128	9	15	66	38	
3 months, less than 4	69	1	10	24	33	1
4 months and more	50		5	10	35	
Not reported	37	1	6	11	19	
Girls	140	20	26	44	49	1
Less than 1 month	72	11	15	20	26	
1 month, less than 2	46	6	9	18	13	
2 months, less than 3	12	1	1	3	7	
3 months, less than 4	1	1				
4 months and more	4	1			2	1
Not reported	5		1	3	1	

Hours of work.

The working-day for the children on these farms was long. A 9-hour or 10-hour working-day was quite usual and an 11-hour day not infrequent. The length varied with the season and the weather. In periods of rush work when it was necessary to take advantage of suitable weather conditions the work usually continued as long as daylight lasted. Although it was not possible to obtain information in regard to the daily hours in the field from all the children included in the study a considerable number reported their usual hours of work for various operations during seasons of the greatest activity on the farm. (Table 16.) Few boys and girls worked less than 8 hours a day at any time, and the majority generally worked 9 or 10 hours. The longest working hours were in the spring when the fields were being plowed and prepared for planting; the shortest were at the harvest season. Of 526 children who had done general farm work almost one-half had worked 10 hours or more a day, whereas of 708 who had worked during the harvest season only one-fourth had worked 10 hours or more a day. However, even at this season two-thirds of the children helping in the harvest had worked in the fields at least 8 hours a day. Their working hours during the harvest season are shorter. Most of the children husk corn, and this is done at a time of year when the hours of daylight are few; and since school is in session the children attending school can work only a few hours in the morning and evening. During the husking season some children worked on school days

about an hour every morning and an hour or two every afternoon, husking until it was too dark to see. On Saturdays they husked all day. Girls generally had shorter hours than the boys. Comparatively few of them spent as much as 10 hours a day in the field except in the spring, but a 10-hour day was not unusual for the boys at any time. The children under 12 years of age worked shorter hours than did the older ones. Neither their work nor that of the girls is insignificant, however, for the majority reported that they had worked at least 8 hours a day. In addition to their field work almost all the children had chores to do, and this could add several hours to their working day. Only 22 of the 737 children included in the study reported that they did not usually do daily chores, and 41 per cent of those reporting chores said that they generally spent at least 2 hours a day in chores at the season of the year in which the inquiry was made. Girls as well as boys helped with the milking and other odd jobs outside the house, and the boys often did housework.

TABLE 16.—*Hours of field work on typical day, by kind of work; Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties*

Kind of field work [1]	Children between 7 and 16 years of age doing field work specified number of hours on typical day																	
	Total	Less than 6 hours		6 hours, less than 8		8 hours, less than 9		9 hours, less than 10		10 hours, less than 11		11 hours, less than 12		12 hours and more		Hours not reported	
		Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]
General farm work	526	24	4.6	20	3.8	49	9.3	158	30.0	199	37.8	53	10.1	4	0.8	19	3.6
Plowing	227	4	1.8	5	2.2	21	9.3	86	37.9	84	37.0	23	10.1	1	.4	3	1.3
Harrowing	203	14	6.9	10	4.9	22	10.8	55	27.1	64	31.5	24	11.8	1	.5	13	6.4
Disking	77	3	3.9	5	6.5	4	5.2	9	11.7	47	61.0	5	6.5	2	2.6	2	2.6
Planting and transplanting	283	34	12.0	27	9.5	26	9.2	70	24.7	45	15.9	12	4.2	1	.4	68	24.0
Planting	190	23	12.1	21	11.1	18	9.5	54	28.4	27	14.2	8	4.2	1	.5	38	20.0
Drilling	29	3	----	2	----	3	----	9	----	8	----	2	----	----	----	2	----
Sowing	14	3	----	----	----	2	----	2	----	2	----	----	----	----	----	5	----
Cultivating	657	20	3.0	45	6.8	62	9.4	188	28.6	214	32.6	63	9.6	5	.8	60	9.1
Machine cultivating	458	12	2.6	16	3.5	42	9.2	136	29.7	186	40.6	54	11.8	5	1.1	7	1.5
Hoeing	141	7	5.0	25	17.7	17	12.1	38	27.0	12	8.5	3	2.1	----	----	39	27.7
Harvesting	708	48	6.8	101	14.3	131	18.5	176	24.9	115	16.2	45	6.4	8	1.1	84	11.9
Husking corn	256	33	12.9	36	14.1	45	17.6	49	19.1	43	16.8	23	9.0	7	2.7	20	7.8
Raking hay	93	2	2.2	16	17.2	31	33.3	27	29.0	13	14.0	3	3.2	----	----	1	1.1
Threshing	52	----	----	5	9.6	4	7.7	15	28.8	15	28.8	4	7.7	1	1.9	8	15.4
Shocking grain	43	2	----	1	----	9	----	12	----	6	----	2	----	----	----	11	----
Mowing hay	25	----	----	1	----	5	----	10	----	5	----	1	----	----	----	3	----

[1] If the child performed more than one kind of work of a given type the typical day is for the kind of work of longest duration.
[2] Not shown where base is less than 50.

Earnings of child workers.

About one-third of the children engaged in general farm work, mostly those who worked away from home, received pay for at least part of their work. A few children were paid for their work on the home farm, but usually field work, like chores and housework, was part

of the child's share of family responsibilities and duties. Not all those who worked away from home were paid, since in accordance with the custom in many farming communities many gave their services in exchange for similar services rendered to their parents by members of the family for whom they were working. When money payment was made the amount depended upon the individual farmer and probably upon the length of the working-day. It was most often between $1 and $1.75 a day, though it varied from 25 cents to $2. Several children who had furnished their implements or teams had received $3.50 and $4.50. Cutting, shocking, and husking corn were sometimes paid for on a piecework basis of 6 to 8 cents a shock for cutting and shocking and 1½ to 2 cents a bushel for husking.

KINDS OF WORK

Tables 17, 18, and 19 show the kinds of field work done by children of different ages in the three counties. Small numbers of children also reported various other tasks in the fields, such as cutting down old cornstalks in the spring, clearing the ground of new sprouts, weeding, hauling, baling and shocking hay, and picking fruit.

TABLE 17.—*Farm operations performed by children doing field work on specified crops, by age of children; Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties*

Farm operation, and crop	Children of specified ages doing field work [1]									
	Total	7 years, under 10		10 years, under 12		12 years, under 14		14 years, under 16		Age not reported	
		Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]	Number	Per cent [2]
Total	737	99	13.4	179	24.3	243	33.0	211	28.6	5	0.7
General:											
Plowing	350	14	4.0	71	20.3	126	36.0	137	39.1	2	.6
Harrowing	493	43	8.7	115	23.3	173	35.1	159	32.3	3	.6
Disking	338	19	5.6	66	19.5	122	36.1	130	38.5	1	.3
Hoeing	197	21	10.7	54	27.4	61	31.0	58	29.4	3	1.5
Corn crop:											
Cultivating	492	39	7.9	109	22.2	170	34.6	171	34.8	3	.6
Husking	486	57	11.7	115	23.7	163	33.5	149	30.7	2	.4
Planting	176	22	12.5	40	22.7	51	29.0	62	35.2	1	.6
Rolling	161	14	8.7	42	26.1	52	32.3	52	32.3	1	.6
Cutting	145	10	6.9	32	22.1	53	36.6	50	34.5	------	------
Hoeing	122	27	22.1	29	23.8	49	40.2	17	13.9	------	------
Shocking	105	4	3.8	20	19.0	37	35.2	44	41.9	------	------
Hay crop:											
Raking	320	14	4.4	57	17.8	115	35.9	132	41.3	2	.6
Driving fork or stacker	184	15	8.2	44	23.9	75	40.8	49	26.6	1	.5
Mowing	162	4	2.5	18	11.1	61	37.7	78	48.1	1	.6
Pitching	90	3	3.3	15	16.7	18	20.0	54	60.0	------	------
Grain crop:											
Driving binder	53	1	1.9	4	7.5	16	30.2	32	60.4	------	------
Shocking	321	25	7.8	72	22.4	110	34.3	113	35.2	1	.3
Threshing—											
Hauling grain	91	4	4.4	11	12.1	26	28.6	50	54.9	------	------
Loading	27	1	------	2	------	9	------	15	------	------	------
Pitching	22	3	------	3	------	3	------	13	------	------	------
Stacking	12	------	------	2	------	4	------	6	------	------	------
Carrying or hauling water	312	46	14.7	94	30.1	124	39.7	47	15.1	1	.3

[1] The items do not add to the totals because some children did more than one kind of field work.
[2] Not shown where base is less than 50.

TABLE 18.—*Farm operations performed by children doing field work on specified crops, by county; Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties*

Farm operation, and crop	Children between 7 and 16 years of age doing field work in specified counties [1]							
	Total		Livingston County		Shelby County		Marion County	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Total	737	100.0	237	100.0	250	100.0	250	100.0
General:								
Plowing	350	47.5	40	16.9	167	66.8	143	57.2
Harrowing	493	66.9	104	43.9	207	82.8	182	72.8
Disking	338	45.9	78	32.9	160	64.0	100	40.0
Hoeing	197	26.7	43	18.1	70	28.0	84	33.6
Corn crop:								
Cultivating	492	66.8	149	62.9	180	72.0	163	65.2
Husking	486	65.9	223	94.1	158	63.2	105	42.0
Planting	176	23.9	24	10.1	47	18.8	105	42.0
Rolling	161	21.8	25	10.5	118	47.2	18	7.2
Cutting	145	19.7	8	3.4	24	9.6	113	45.2
Hoeing	122	16.6	26	11.0	27	10.8	69	27.6
Shocking	105	14.2	2	.8	24	9.6	79	31.6
Hay crop:								
Raking	320	43.4	48	20.3	135	54.0	137	54.8
Driving fork or stacker	184	25.0	76	32.1	82	32.8	26	10.4
Mowing	162	22.0	29	12.2	81	32.4	52	20.8
Pitching	90	12.2	29	12.2	31	12.4	30	12.0
Grain crop:								
Driving binder	53	7.2	21	8.9	20	8.0	12	4.8
Shocking	321	43.6	149	62.9	95	38.0	77	30.8
Threshing:								
Hauling grain	91	12.3	32	13.5	39	15.6	20	8.0
Loading	27	3.7	6	2.5	6	2.4	15	6.0
Pitching	22	3.0	3	1.3	9	3.6	10	4.0
Stacking	12	1.6	4	1.7	2	.8	6	2.4
Carrying or hauling water	312	42.3	143	60.3	95	38.0	74	29.6

[1] The items do not add to the totals because some children did more than one kind of field work.

Although some children in each county did each of the kinds of work listed there is a striking difference among the counties in the number of children who reported certain operations. In Livingston County the principal kinds of work, so far as numbers of children were concerned, were husking and cultivating corn, shocking grain, and carrying water to the grain threshers, or hauling water for the threshing engines. In Shelby and Marion Counties comparatively few children had done any of these kinds of work except husking and cultivating corn, and the proportions engaged even in those operations were much smaller than in Livingston County. In those two counties the largest proportions of the workers had done general farm work, such as plowing, harrowing, and—in Shelby County—disking; but comparatively small proportions of children in Livingston County had plowed, disked, or harrowed.

TABLE 19.—*Ages of children doing specified kinds of field work, by county; Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties*

Kind of field work, and county [1]	Children of specified ages doing field work [1]								
	Total		Under 12 years		12 years, under 14		14 years, under 16		Age not reported [2]
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	
Total	737	100.0	278	100.0	243	100.0	211	100.0	5
Plowing	350	47.5	85	30.6	126	51.9	137	64.9	2
Harrowing	493	66.9	158	56.8	173	71.2	159	75.4	3
Disking	338	45.9	85	30.6	122	50.2	130	61.6	1
Hoeing	197	26.7	75	27.0	61	25.1	58	27.5	3
Cultivating corn	492	66.8	148	53.2	170	70.0	171	81.0	3
Husking corn	486	65.9	172	61.9	163	67.1	149	70.6	2
Shocking grain	321	43.6	97	34.9	110	45.3	113	53.6	1
Livingston County	237	100.0	97	100.0	86	100.0	54	100.0	
Plowing	40	16.9	8	8.2	14	16.3	18	33.3	
Harrowing	104	43.9	30	30.9	38	44.2	36	66.7	
Disking	78	32.9	16	16.5	31	36.0	31	57.4	
Hoeing	43	18.1	17	17.5	14	16.3	12	22.2	
Cultivating corn	149	62.9	47	48.5	57	66.3	45	83.3	
Husking corn	223	94.1	89	91.8	82	95.3	52	96.3	
Shocking grain	149	62.9	49	50.5	54	62.8	46	85.2	
Shelby County	250	100.0	77	100.0	79	100.0	91	100.0	3
Plowing	167	66.8	40	51.9	57	72.2	69	75.8	1
Harrowing	207	82.8	63	81.8	72	91.1	70	76.9	2
Disking	160	64.0	44	57.1	55	69.6	60	65.9	1
Hoeing	70	28.0	22	28.6	22	27.8	25	27.5	1
Cultivating corn	180	72.0	44	57.1	60	75.9	75	82.4	1
Husking corn	158	63.2	44	57.1	46	58.2	67	73.6	1
Shocking grain	95	38.0	24	31.2	27	34.2	43	47.3	1
Marion County	250	100.0	104	100.0	78	100.0	66	100.0	2
Plowing	143	57.2	37	35.6	55	70.5	50	75.8	1
Harrowing	182	72.8	65	62.5	63	80.8	53	80.3	1
Disking	100	40.0	25	24.0	36	46.2	39	59.1	
Hoeing	84	33.6	36	34.6	25	32.1	21	31.8	2
Cultivating corn	163	65.2	57	54.8	53	67.9	51	77.3	2
Husking corn	105	42.0	39	37.5	35	44.9	30	45.5	1
Shocking grain	77	30.8	24	23.1	29	37.2	24	36.4	

[1] The numbers do not add to the totals because some children did more than one kind of field work.
[2] Per cent not shown where base is less than 50.

The fact that only 13 per cent of the Livingston County children interviewed were 14 or 15 years of age, whereas 18 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, of the Marion County and the Shelby County children interviewed were 14 or 15 years of age—although the proportion of 14 and 15 year old children among all children between 7 and 16 years of age in each county is approximately 20 per cent [7]—might indicate that there were a number of 14-year-old and 15-year-old children in the selected districts in Livingston County whose work was not reported on because they were not enrolled in the schools visited; and children of these ages are most likely to do the heavier work such as plowing and disking. However, assuming that at least a sufficient number of children of these ages lived in the Livingston County districts (although they were not enrolled in the schools visited) to bring the proportion of 14 and 15 year old

[7] Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Vol. III, Population, pp. 256, 257, 259. Washington, 1922.

children up to 20 per cent of those interviewed, if they had been included, and assuming that all these children had plowed, harrowed, and disked, the proportion of Livingston County children plowing or harrowing would still be considerably smaller than those in Shelby and Marion Counties, and the proportion of those disking would be much smaller than in Shelby County though slightly larger than in Marion County where comparatively little disking was done. Moreover, although the age distribution of the children under 14 years of age interviewed was about the same in each of the counties, there was a marked difference between Livingston County and the other two counties in the proportion of children under 14 plowing, disking, or harrowing.

Harrowing was the commonest kind of field work for the children of Shelby and Marion Counties (Pl. III, fig. 1, facing p. 44), and husking corn for those in Livingston County.

This difference in the kinds of work that the children did is to be explained largely by the difference in crops. For example, Livingston County raised more corn than either of the others. In Shelby and Marion Counties hay was a more important crop. The difference in crops does not, however, fully explain the difference in the children's work. There seems also to have been a tendency among Livingston County farmers to use their children chiefly on the lighter kinds of field work or for emergencies when everyone on the farm is pressed into service, as at threshing and corn-husking time. The farmers in Livingston County, on the whole more prosperous than those in Shelby or Marion County, hired adult help for the heaviest work.

At least one girl did each kind of work listed except hauling grain, but considerably smaller proportions of the girl workers than of the boy workers shared in the various operations on the farm. The largest proportions of working girls husked or shucked corn, cultivated corn, harrowed, carried and hauled drinking water to threshers, shocked grain, hoed corn and other crops, and raked—20 per cent or more of them in each operation. The largest proportion of working boys plowed, harrowed, disked, cultivated, and husked or shucked corn—more than 50 per cent doing each of these kinds of work. Hoeing corn was the only work in which the proportion of working girls engaged exceeded that of the working boys—25 per cent as compared with 15 per cent. Other hoeing had been done by a slightly smaller proportion of girls than of boys—24 per cent of the girls and 28 per cent of the boys. Only 50 per cent of the girls did any kind of general work as compared with 85 per cent of the boys; only 52 per cent as compared with 75 per cent had worked on the grain crop; only 47 per cent as compared with 79 per cent had worked on the hay crop. The great majority (86 per cent) of the working girls, however, as well as of the working boys (98 per cent) had helped with the corn crop. Much larger proportions of the boys than of the girls had done the various operations, and only 140 girls as compared with 597 boys had done any field work at all. The girls who do field work do only the easier kinds; as has been said, they can not handle the heavy machinery required in many of the operations on the farms of this region; and even in Marion and Shelby Counties, where many boys did the work of regular hired hands, girls had comparatively light tasks.

General work.

Plowing, disking, and harrowing are the hardest kinds of work that the children do, plowing being the most difficult. In Livingston and in Shelby County the one-share or two-share riding plow drawn by three or four horses is in general use. In Marion County the one-share walking plow drawn by two horses, which is better adapted to the rough, hilly land, is more common. There is probably no harder work on a farm than plowing with a walking plow where the depth of the cutting can be regulated only by bearing down on the handles of the plow; and it is especially difficult in stony or recently cleared land like much of that in Marion County. Almost one-half (350) of the children included in the study had plowed, and nearly three-fourths of them were boys between 12 and 16 years, constituting more than two-thirds of the working boys of those ages. Nineteen girls, 4 of whom were under 12 years of age, and 81 boys under 12 years of age had also plowed. In Livingston County with its more prosperous farming population only 40 children, or about one-sixth, had plowed (see p. 39), but in the other counties the majority had done plowing. The majority of all the working children who had done plowing were engaged in the work less than two weeks, but 39 children had plowed at least one month and a few at least two months. Examples of somewhat extreme conditions in connection with plowing are those of an 11-year-old boy who plowed for three weeks with a walking plow and a 12-year-old boy, hired by a large orchard owner, who plowed with a riding plow more than two months.

In both plowing and disking there is danger of accidents. A small child is easily jolted from his seat if a machine hits a snag or the horses start to run. Disking is considered more dangerous than plowing, for a child jolted from his seat may be thrown in the way of the moving disks. One-fourth of the children who had disked were under 12 years of age. The proportions of boys and girls who had plowed were about the same as the proportions of boys and girls who had disked, and the children were of about the same ages.

Harrowing is not so difficult as plowing nor so hazardous as disking. It is often done by girls and by the younger as well as by the older boys. It is extremely fatiguing work, especially when no seat is provided on the machine and the driver has to stand on the machine or walk behind it through the loosened soil as did the majority of the child workers in the study who had harrowed.

Hoeing is the only other kind of general farm work which any considerable number of children did. This is a simple operation, and one-half of those who reported having hoed were girls or were boys under 12 years of age.

Work on corn.

Almost every child who works on a farm in these sections of Illinois helps on the corn crop; only 28 of the children included in the study had done no field work on corn. Their work consists usually of cultivating and husking, but some of the children—in Marion County a large proportion of those who had worked—had shared in nearly every operation from the time the corn was planted until it was harvested.

Rolling.—If the field in which corn is planted has many clods, as often happens in dry seasons, it is usually rolled by a flat or corrugated

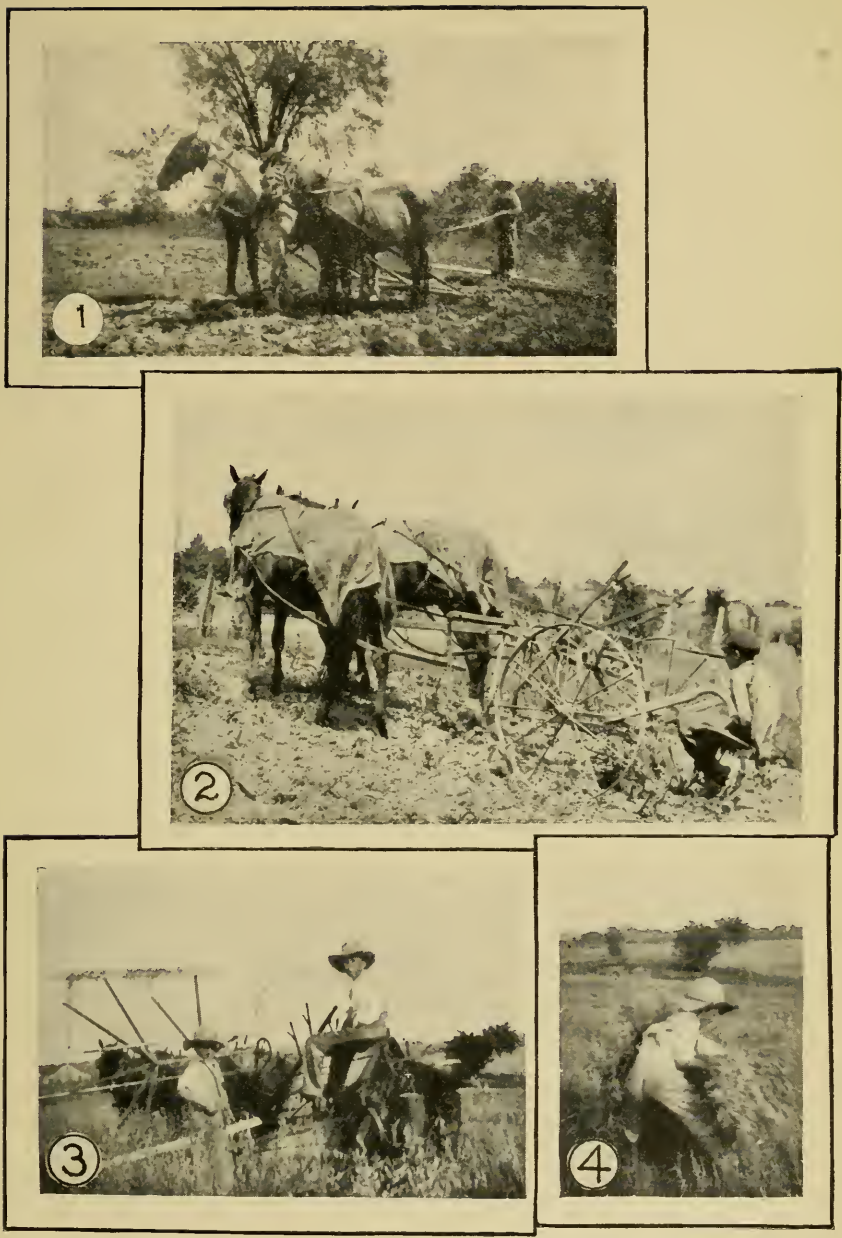


PLATE III.—OPERATIONS IN GENERAL FARMING: 1. HARROWING. 2. CULTIVATING. 3. REAPING AND BINDING. 4. SHOCKING GRAIN

roller before the harrowing is done. Rolling may be done if necessary even after the corn has begun to come up. It is simple work, entailing only driving the horses; but it was reported by few children except in Shelby County.

Planting.—In the States of the Corn Belt the corn is most frequently planted with the checkrower. This is a two-row planter equipped with a roll of wire which unwinds with the progress of the machine across the field and in unwinding releases the seed from the seed box at regular intervals. A corn drill is used when it is desirable to plant in closer rows than the checkrower allows. Planting is not hard work with either of these machines, but the rows must be kept even in order to facilitate cultivation; and it is difficult for children to drive straight enough unless they have had a great deal of experience. In Marion County about two-fifths of the children helped with the corn planting, but in the other two counties the proportion was small. Only a few did machine planting—in Marion County less than one-half of those reporting corn planting. The children's work in corn planting was rather to go over the field after the corn was up and replant by hand in places where the seed of the first planting had failed to sprout.

Cultivating.—More children reported cultivating corn than reported any other work on the farm except harrowing. A large majority of the workers in each county had cultivated. A four or six shovel two-horse cultivator was generally used. (Pl. III, fig. 2, facing p. 44.) The majority of the children who had cultivated corn were at least 12 years of age, but many young children did the work. The crop is generally given three or four cultivations, the first and last of which are difficult and are usually done by only the older children. At the first cultivation the corn is just above the ground, and care must be taken not to cover the young shoots with the loose soil. At the last cultivation the stalks are high, and there is danger of their being damaged by the machine as it passes over them. Considerable time is given to the work on account of the necessity of the several cultivations. One-fifth of the children who had cultivated corn reported that they had done so for at least four weeks, and some had cultivated for six or seven weeks.

Harvesting.—In Livingston County the usual way of harvesting corn is to gather the ears from the standing stalks and husk them in the field, leaving the stalks to be plowed under the following spring. Frequently in Marion County and occasionally in Shelby County the stalks are cut and shocked, the ears being husked later from the shock and the stalks saved for fodder.

Husking corn is not difficult for the experienced workers, but it is not uncommon for the beginner to sprain his wrist, and even experienced workers often strap their wrists for protection. As the work can not be done until after a heavy frost the weather often adds great discomfort to the job. A large majority of the working children, and almost all in Livingston County, had husked corn. It was reported by girls more frequently than any other work and quite often by young children. Fewer children help with cutting and shocking than with husking. Shocking is hard work, for the corn stalks are long, heavy, and awkward to carry. Owing to the method of harvesting corn common in Livingston and Shelby Counties few children in these counties had cut or shocked, but in Marion County

a large proportion of the working children had done each operation. Only a few girls and only a small proportion of the younger children had cut and shocked corn.

Work on grain.

Although 71 per cent of the children who had worked in the fields had done some work on grain other than corn, their work was confined for the most part to shocking. They also did a small amount of loading, hauling, and pitching at threshing time. A few of the older children reported drilling or seeding, and driving the binder at harvest time (Pl. III, fig. 3, facing p. 44), but as a rule these operations were done by men.

Shocking.—The shockers follow the binder in its progress across the field, gathering the bundles in piles as they fall from the machine and standing them on end. (Pl. III, fig. 4, facing p. 44.) Some workers cap the shocks as well, but not many children are skilled enough to do that part of the work. A fairly large proportion of girls (28 per cent) and of younger children did this work. Three-tenths of the shockers were under 12 years of age, and a few were under 10. Although the work is not difficult it is done at a time of year when the heat is intense. Many of the children shocked regularly for long hours during a period of two weeks and a few for three or four weeks.

Threshing.—Threshing time is one of the busiest on the farm, both in the house and in the field. Although girls and younger boys do not do much in the field except carry drinking water to the workers, some of the older boys serve as regular members of the threshing crews. Hauling water for the engine, hauling grain to the thresher or from there to the elevator or barn, and pitching bundles of grain up on the wagon were the kinds of work at threshing time (in addition to carrying drinking water to threshers) most commonly reported by the children. Although it is extremely dusty work, none of it is arduous except pitching bundles of grain to the wagon and hauling grain to the threshing machine. Hauling the grain to the threshing machine brings the child close to moving machinery. Often it includes feeding the machine; that is, pitching the bundles of grain into it. This requires not only strength but skill, and the child who does this work is usually considered a regular member of the crew and must work long hours. The worker pitches the bundle upon a moving belt which carries it under a set of moving knives that cut the twine binding the bundles and spreads out the grain as it goes into the thresher. Workers must constantly be alert and take care not to get too near the machine. Hauling bundles of grain to the threshing machine was reported by 37 children, 7 of whom stated that they had also fed the machine. Two girls and 20 boys reported pitching.

Work on hay.

Most of the work in haying time is light enough to be done by children. Only a few children stack hay, as this requires more skill than a child usually possesses; but they do nearly everything else—mowing, raking, pitching, and driving the team for the hay stacker or the fork that is used in unloading in the barn. For example, a boy of 14, his 13-year-old sister, and an older sister put up all the hay from a 55-acre tract with the assistance of a neighbor for only

two half days—mowing, raking, and stacking it in small bundles for baling.

Mowing and raking.—Mowing requires little more than the ability to drive a team and manipulate the lever that regulates the height of cutting, but because of the sharp knives it has an element of danger for children. Only a few girls had mowed. Children under 12 years of age constituted one-seventh of those who had done this work. Raking hay was reported by almost one-half of the boys and one-fifth of the girls. More than one-fifth of the children who did the work were under 12 years of age. Raking is easy work—driving horses and operating simple levers.

Driving stacker team and hay fork.—Hay is often stacked in the field by means of a stacker and is lifted from the wagon to the barn loft by a hay fork, both of which are operated by horse power. Children often drive and manage the horses for this work. More than one-fourth of the boys and about one-sixth of the girls had driven horses for the stacker or the hay fork.

FARM WORK AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

In the general-farming districts of central Illinois the children were not kept out of school for farm work to the extent that has been found to be the case in many truck-farming and beet, cotton, or tobacco growing areas where there is much hand labor that children can do. Farm work caused less absence in this presumably representative section of the Corn Belt than in a wheat-raising district of North Dakota where the Children's Bureau made a similar study and where much of the work is done, as on Illinois farms, by machinery.[8] Nevertheless the school attendance of a small group of Illinois children was seriously affected by their work on the farms.

School records were obtained for 636 children, but only 582 of these children could state the cause of the absences which were recorded against them on the school registers. Of these 45 per cent had been absent from school for farm work at some time during the school year preceding the inquiry. The proportion was larger for older children (60 per cent for those between 14 and 16 years of age) and larger for boys (53 per cent for those between 12 and 14 years of age and 71 per cent for those between 14 and 16). The great majority of the workers had lost only a few days on account of their work (Table 20), but 71 children (12 per cent of those for whom a report on the reasons for absence could be obtained) had stayed out of school at least one month, and 39 children had stayed out two months or more to do farm work. The majority of the 71 children were 14 years of age or older. Although very long absences for farm work among children under 14 were rare they did occur. For example a 13-year-old boy whose father was a member of the local school board had lost 75 days for farm work during the school year preceding the inquiry, and his 11-year-old brother had lost 37½ days. Absence for farm work was less frequent in Livingston County than in the other counties, although the school term was longer in Livingston County. Since the children in Livingston County did not generally do much heavy farm work not many were kept out of school for the spring

[8] Child Labor in North Dakota, pp. 34-36. U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 129. Washington, 1923.

plowing and harrowing, which probably more than any other work interfered with school attendance in Shelby County and in Marion County. Corn husking, though done by many children and done after the opening of school in the fall, interferes with school attendance but little, since farmers can usually depend upon the help of their children for four or five days in the height of the season, because at this time the schools are closed for the teachers' institute; and with this help and a few hours a day before and after school and on Saturday, most of the husking can be finished without keeping the children out of school. The school attendance law makes no specific exemption from school attendance of children doing farm work, but it contains a provision by which a temporary absence may be excused by principal or teacher "for cause."[9]

TABLE 20.—*Absence from school on account of farm work of children, by county; Livingston, Shelby, and Marion Counties*

Absence from school on account of farm work during school year, 1922–23	Children between 7 and 16 years of age doing farm work in specified counties							
	Total		Livingston County		Shelby County		Marion County	
	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution	Number	Per cent distribution
Total	737		237		250		250	
Reporting reasons for absence	582	100.0	183	100.0	191	100.0	208	100.0
No absence for farm work	319	54.8	136	74.3	86	45.0	97	46.6
Less than 5 days	86	14.8	26	14.2	32	16.8	28	13.5
5 days, less than 10	43	7.4	11	6.0	18	9.4	14	6.7
10 days, less than 20	46	7.9	3	1.6	19	9.9	24	11.5
20 days, less than 30	19	3.3	1	0.5	9	4.7	9	4.3
30 days and more	52	8.9	1	.5	27	14.1	24	11.5
Not reporting number of days	17	2.9	5	2.7			12	5.8
Not reporting reasons for absence or school record not obtained	155		54		59		42	

Children who attend rural schools, many of which have short school years, can ill afford to lose even a few days for farm work when they lose so much for other causes such as sickness, bad weather, and bad roads. Of the 71 children who had missed at least one month of the year's instruction on account of farm work all except 12 had been absent for other reasons also. Nineteen children, 13 of whom had lost at least six weeks for farm work, had absences in addition to those for farm work amounting to at least one month and in a few cases to two months. Of the 636 children for whom school records were obtained 88, or approximately one-seventh, had had instruction less than 100 days (5 school months) during the year, and 43 had had instruction less than 80 days.

The relation between school attendance and progress in school could not be ascertained for the children included in this study, owing to the system of grading in effect in many of the rural schools of

[9] Ill., Rev. Stat. (Cahill's) 1925, ch. 122, par. 398.

Illinois.[10] All studies of school progress have shown, however, that among children of normal mentality absence is the principal factor in a child's retardation or falling behind the normal grade for his age. Over-age children tend to drop out of school as soon as possible and so are less likely to complete high school, or even the elementary-school course, than children who have attended regularly and have kept up with their grades.

A brief analysis of the relation of the farmer's education to his income made by the United States Department of Agriculture in connection with a survey of farm management in several Corn Belt States is of interest in connection with the present study.[11] To determine the influence of education the tenant farmers included in the survey by the Department of Agriculture who had had the same training were grouped according to their capital. The difference in income was shown to be in favor of those who had had a high-school education. The average income of farmers having over $3,000 capital who had had high-school training and an average capital of $5,095 was nearly double that of those whose education had been limited to the elementary school, although the average capital of the latter group was $4,023.

SUMMARY

Districts in Marion, Livingston, and Shelby Counties were selected as representative of general farming conditions in Illinois. Of 1,672 children under 16 years of age attending rural schools in the selected districts or living in the districts and not attending school, 737 children (67 per cent of the boys and 18 per cent of the girls) worked in the fields. More than three-fifths (62 per cent) were 12 years of age or older; about one-seventh (14 per cent) were under 10 years of age. Almost all the children who worked on the farms in this section lived on farms in the vicinity, their parents being farm owners or tenants. Most of the children included in the study were of native American parentage. Some worked on only the home farm, but many helped neighboring farmers as well, seldom receiving any payment in cash but doing the work in exchange for similar service rendered to their parents.

Compared with truck, cotton, or tobacco farms, with beet or onion culture, or with hop growing the general farm offers comparatively little work within the strength of girls or young children. The girls and the children under 12 years of age included in the study usually did the easier kinds of work, such as hoeing, cultivating, raking hay, and husking corn, but many of them harrowed, which is hard work, though not heavy in the sense that it requires great physical strength. Some of the boys 12 years of age and over did a great deal of field work, some of it involving the use of heavy machinery and necessitating the handling of heavy teams of horses. The majority of

[10] Two consecutive grades of pupils are combined in one class, both doing the work of one grade, so that the grade reached is not a precise indication of school attainment. Thus, a pupil in the seventh grade, for example, may have completed the work of either the fifth or the sixth grade and at the end of the year may be "promoted" to either the sixth or the eighth grade. The pupil who enters the sixth grade after completion of the seventh is promoted, at the completion of the sixth grade, to the eighth grade.

[11] A Farm-Management Survey of Three Representative Areas in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, by E. H. Thomson and H. M. Dixon, pp. 38–39. U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 41. Washington, 1914.

the children worked in the fields less than two months, but about one-sixth worked at least three months during the farm season.

The working-day was usually long for the younger as well as the older children. It was seldom less than 8 hours and more often was 9 or 10 hours. The longest working days were reported for the spring, when plowing and other work in preparation for seeding had to be done; fully one-half of the children worked 10 or more hours a day at this time. The shortest working-days were those of the harvest season, but even at that time two-thirds of the children who had worked reported a working-day of at least 8 hours.

Farm work does not interfere with the school attendance of the children in this section to the same extent as in most rural communities surveyed by the Children's Bureau, though some children lose a considerable part of their schooling on account of their work. Almost one-half of the workers for whom school records were obtained and who reported the reasons for their absences had been absent from school for farm work during the year preceding the inquiry. Usually this absence was for less than 10 days, but 71 children had lost from 1 to 5 months of school attendance because of their farm work. Much of this absence for farm work comes at the beginning or at the close of the school year, when it is likely to be particularly disastrous to the child's progress in school. Absence for farm work was more frequent in Marion County and in Shelby County than in Livingston County. In Livingston County, the most prosperous of the three counties, the children do not help much with the spring work, which probably more than any other interferes with school attendance in the other two counties. They do lighter work and lose considerably less time than children in either Shelby or Marion County.

○

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 9999 05708 4921

SEP 14 1927